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UCAS LEVELISTINGS GESUPPLEMENT TODAY

PLUS: THE INDEPENDENT'S £2.5 MILLION STUDENT PROMOTION DAY TWO: YOUR CHANCE TO GET MARIE CLAIRE, LOADE NME AND OTHER MAGAZINES AT REDUCED PRICES See page 37 of UCAS listings (open only to UCAS applicants)

Private drivers facing M-way ban

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Private motorists could be banned from parts of Britain's motorways including London's orbital M25 - under radical proposals being studied by ministers. At busy times, clogged lanes would be kept only for buses and lorries.

A government consultation paper, called "What Role for Trunk Roads in England?", says bluntly that in order to unclog the M25, which can see 200,000 cars a day on the busiest stretches, ministers are prepared to consider "limiting access to the most congested parts of the network, access control at peak periods, highoccupancy lanes, including bus or heavy-goods-vehicle-only lanes, perhaps using the bard shoulder...

As revealed yesterday morning, similar plans are being studied for Birmingham's heavily congested M6. But this may be only the start. Options include shutting down stretches of road to through-traffic and adopting a US-style scheme under which only cars with more than two passengers are allowed to pass.

The idea will go down badly with hundreds of thousands of commuters in the Midlands and the South-east. The report states that "although the M25 accounts for only about 6 per cent of the mileage of the motorway network, it carries 14 per cent of all motorway traffic".

In order to stop cars from joining congested sections of motorway. motorists could be forced to wait on slip roads until a traffic-jam subsides. Alternatively, electronic signs could be used to tell drivers not to use bus

or lorry-only lanes. More complicated systems use video technology to spot cars with only one occupant and fine drivers who persist in using multi-occupan-

)d testing

The plans were attacked by motoring organisations. "These plans need careful consideration. If you restrict access to motorways people will just drive on to local roads - which are not designed to carry these

loads, said Edmund King, spokesman for the RAC.

"As for using the hard shoulder that could be extremely dangerous. We would not want to see those lanes blocked off when the emergency services need to get to stranded mo-torists," added Mr King. Other roads in the Midlands may

also face Draconian measures in order to restrain traffic.

Ministers have noted that "the M40, and parts of the M42, which it feeds, has experienced growth of 50 per cent between 1991 and 1996, compared with a national rate of 12

The most congested stretch of mo-torway lies on the M6 - where daily flows can top 150,000 vehicles a day. The motorway already uses a complicated "ramp-metering" system -which prevents traffic joining the M6 if the traffic flow is not "smooth". This means that when a jam looms, a traffic-light stops vehicles from joining the motorway.

But with an ever-increasing number of cars using the motorway, the consultation document states that consideration could also be given to limiting access to the most congested parts of the motorway net-

Ministers are aware that the restrictions will not please big business and have made it clear that the measures will not drastically affect "strategic, commercial and industrial traffic passing through the region". A spokesman for the Department of Environment, Transport

and the Regions said that none of the options outlined were "new.". We are not ruling anything in or out at present," he added.

The Government is anxious to reconcile two competing aims: that of the motorist's freedom and the need to prioritise public transport.

Next week will see the beginning of the consultation on the Government's much-vaunted "integrated transport policy" - which should outline ministers' ideas on how to move people from their cars to pub-



The scramble intensifies for last free places at university



Earlier this week, Mrs Clare Cooper wrote to us, pointing out quite correctly that Each year, on publication of the A-level results, the front page of every broadsheet pictures jubilant young women laughing and hugging

The race for the last free university

places began in carnest vesterday af-

ter more than 190,000 applicants for

the 310,000 places available had

Late entries to the clearing

process are up by 40 per cent, sug-

gesting that some candidates may be

applying this year rather than next

to avoid paying tuition fees to be in-

and Judith Judd

their offers confirmed.

troduced next autumn.

each other. While of course they look beautiful, we've had this each year for about decade. As concern grows about the decline in young men's school achievement

some photos of young men similarly celebrating?" Fair dos. But it hasn't been easy. First, as the writer pointed out, young men often have less to celebrate. And second,

ing the next 1.2 months would have to pay fees. So far there have been 9.753 late entries, compared with

places up for grabs.

On Wednesday, the Government announced that students who have al-That trend, which would mean an additional 10,000 entries by the end of the clearing process, might not continue if students decide the comready applied for a university place petition will be too tough this year. Tony Higgins, chief executive of but decided to defer entry and take

6,944 at the same fime last year.

a gap year would be exempt from fees. the Universities and Colleges Ad-But Baroness Blackstone, the edmissions Service, said there was ucation minister, confirmed yesterday that those who had not already room within universities for places

they do, a modest shrug, a glare at usually drop out of clearing each year decided to stay on because of fees.

"That could be more than universities could cope with and we could see people who might otherwise have found a place not doing so." As more than a quarter of a mil-

lion A-level students received their grades yesterday, The Independent's table of high-performing comprehensives was topped by a former secondary modern in the shadow of two applied and intended to do so dur- for the 10,000 but the picture would major public schools. Pupils studying

Cooper. These young men were receiving their results at Parliament Hill School, north London, yesterday Photograph: Nicola Kurtz two or more A-levels at Chase High School in Malvern, neighbour of the mighty Malvern College and Malvern

the ground and the ghost of a smirk is all

yournostly get. But we've done our best. Mrs.

two Bs and a C. The Independent contacted 200 top state comprehensive schools yesterday for their results. The table is a good guide to their performance, but is not definitive. The results show that, as last year, high-performing comprehensives outstrip many grammar schools.

Best performing schools, page 6

Girls' College, gained an average of 22.1 points each - the equivalent to

'I'm not undressing for you' Why Wait

The rise in the A-level pass rate

for the 16th successive year will mean

that more students will have gained

the grades they need, leaving fewer

Attending a political lecture at Millbank was an exciting prospect: political types in sharp suits, some minders, and of course Peter Mandelson, who's set to reveal important plans to save the underclass. Sounds very high powered. So

why does everyone look so bored? The front six rows are made up of beautifully designed chairs; the most important people sit here, just like at fashion shows. Behind them is a row of television cameras. Then I realise, it's all for show, this conference lark. Beyoud the cameras, the chairs are not fabby at all, just standard. The rest of us

In he walks, Blair's right-hand man. I expect a frisson of excitement through lecture starts. I furiously start writing notes, Mandelson sounds so passionate. I look up. No one else is writing. Why? Comprehension dawns. The speech, I have a copy of it in my hands.

I indulge in some people watching. I

The Wrong Correspondent

Continuing our occasional series in which an increasingly confused editor sends the wrong writers to news events... Melanie Rickey, style writer, attends Peter Mandelson's speech on the underclass

been picking up on the latest catwalk trends. He wore a single breasted charcoal grey suit, (the BIG colour for Auare back here, fidgeting and slouching tumn), with power shoulders (these in the heat, all waiting for Mandelson. too are back), a red tie, and an off-white shirt with neat collars. His trousers were wide legged (ten points), but had the crowd, but it doesn't happen. The a turn-up (minus five points). Shoes were well polished black brogues, and hair was well done. I decided he looked like a cross between George Hamilton and Griff Rhys Jones. In all, top marks.

As for the rest of the room they were a sorry lot. Men in crumpled suits stare begin with Mandelson who has obviously into space. One man even falls asleep. The

women look good though; lots of power

bobs and pretty dresses.

Meanwhile, Mandelson is talking about the underclass. He wants the Government to create higher standards in schools and colleges, and a Welfare to Work programme for the long term un-

employed. The sleepy man wakes up. After the lecture Mandelson makes to leave. He is surrounded by the front row (this happens at fashion shows too). I shuffle up shyly.

Can I ask you a fun question?" Yes." he replies. Where did you get that suit from, it's

verv nice? "What's that got to do with social re-form?" he smirks.

"Nothing," I say. "I just wondered." He turns to an aide and asks: "I got it somewhere boring didn't I, somewhere near Blackfriars?" I ask to see the label, I'm not expecting Gucci, but possibly Savile Row. "I'm not going to undress for you," he says.

With that I walked out into the sunshine thinking: it's probably from Next.

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£12m football deal halts Continental drift

Paul Newman

The wave of expensive overseas players into English football may be beginning to turn today with the sale of Steve McManaman from Liverpool to Barcelona for £12m.

ay join Cardiff, The England international was in Barcelona, yesterday, having talks with the Spanish club, who are offering a six-year contract worth more than

The move would be the second most expensive transfer involving an English club, fol-lowing Alan Shearer's £15m transfer from Blackburn to Newcastle last year.

Barcelona have plenty of money available to spend on players following the depar-ture this summer of their Brazil-

£30,000 a week. This would at ian international, Ronaldo, to League. He has been watched undoubtedly huge potential this least double the player's current wages. Internazionale, who have had to pay £18m simply to buy out the player's contract and have yet to agree a transfer fee. The Ronaldo deal is already a world

record. The Spanish club are keen to complete the transfer of McManaman by midnight tonight, which is the deadline for registering players to play in this season's European Champions'

in Liverpool's first two games of the season by Bobby Robson, the former England manager Evan who is now general manager of Barcelona.

McManaman, aged 25, has been with Liverpool since leaving school. He has established himself as one of the English game's greatest creative tal-ents, although there is a feeling that he has not quite realised his

It is understood that Roy

Evans, the Liverpool manager, has not opposed the sale of McManaman. The £12m will be available for him to spend on new players and last night the club were already lining up a £3m deal to recruit the Internazionale central defender. Massimo Paganin.

Reports, page 24

Concise crossword .22 Listings20,21

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Curbs on dental care NHS dental treatment could be limited to check-ups for all except children, the poor and the elderly under plans being studied by ministers. Page 7

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BIG MAC

Loyalist protest at Maze carries a hefty price

Damage to Northern Ireland's Maze Prison will cost hundreds of thousands of pounds and take several months to repair, following the protest by Loyalist prisoners, it emerged last night.

The damage was described as some of the worst ever seen by

prison officers at the top-security Co Antrim jail. The Prison Service described the incident as 14 hours of "wanton distruction" by the Loyalist Volunteer Force inmates.

Furniture was burned, walls blacked, electrical wiring torn out and toilets and showers ripped out and smashed. The 27 prisoners were moved to other parts of the prison when warders moved in on Wednesday night to bring their protest to an end.

Two prison officers suffered arm injuries and one prisoner a head wound during the operation to clear the men out from behind

Prescott ally faces fraud inquiry

John Black, a Hull councillor who is a strong political ally and friend of the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, is to be investigated by the police over expenses he incurred as Lord Mayor in 1995-6. The police have taken over the inquiry from the local district auditor, Paul Lundy, who received a complaint about Mr Black's expenses from a Liberal Democrat councillor. Mr Black incurred expenditure of £42,000 during his year as Lord Mayor, charged to the Lord Mayor's Remuneration Fund, more than twice the average figure for previous years, and including £10,000 spent on alcohol. The bill covered civic hospitality and was in addition to the £5,100 mayor's personal allowance A spokesman for Humberside police said an investigation was

now being carried out by its fraud section.

Last month Mr Black was suspended from his position as chairman of Hull City Labour Party by the National Executive Committee of the party. Christian Wolman

New PPS for PM



John Holmes, a career diplomat, was last night named by Downing Street as the Prime Minister's new principal private secretary, to replace Alex Allan. Mr Allan (left), who was the principal private secretary under John Major, is to become the new British High Commissioner - the Commonwealth equivalent of ambassador - in Australia. The Cabinet secretary, Sir

Robin Butler, blocked

Jonathan Powell, the Downing Street Chief of Staff, from taking the post. Mr Allan, 46, takes up his appointment in mid-November, succeeding Sir Roger Carrick. He formerly held posts at the Treasury, including Principal Private Secretary to the former chancellor Lord Lawson. Colin Colin Brown

Condom of the future unrolled

London International, the world's leading condom manufacturer, is developing a female condom which it says will rival the much hated Femidom product.

Meanwhile, the company is poised to get US approval for a revolutionary polyurethane condom. Called Ayanti, the condom has double the tensile strength of conventional latex, but is 40 per cent thinner. Avanti, which has taken six years to pass the US's stringent drug laws because of its unique material, should go on sale in the US in the next few months and be rolled out in the UK in September.

Tilda Swinton

"The Maybe", a work in which the actress Tilda Swinton was featured in a glass case (articles, 16 and 18 June) was conceived by Tilda Swinton, who performed it at The Serpentine Gallery in 1995 with an installation created in collaboration with Cornelia Parker.

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1996



Splashdown: Vasily Tsibiliyev relishes his first fresh water for several months (Photograph: B

Cosmonauts back on Earth after nightmare aboard Mir

"I hope that everything bad that we've had will leave with us. See you on Earth," said Commander Vasity Tsibliyev, before floating with his crewmate, Alexanrocket taking them home. The remaining three men are due to try a complex spacewalk next Wednesday. to try to fix a dangerous hole in one of Mir's modules.

The departing cosmonauts landed three hours later, and 250 miles lower, on the steppes of Kazakhstan. Russian TV showed officials at Mission Control clapping when word came through that the capsule, slowed by giant parachutes, had touched down.

President Borls Yeltsin has suggested "human error" was behind a space collision in June, which, together with an unrelated fire on Mir some weeks earlier, made the mission the most disastrous - and strenu-

wo Russian cosmonauts who endured a jinxed ous — in the ailing station's 11-year history. But lew expect the cosmonauts to be criticised. Instead they turned safely to Earth yesterday after wishing the are likely to be treated as heroes for having persevered team which replaced them better luck: despite a host of problems.

Commander Isibilyev has had a stress related irregular heartbeat since the accident, caused when he was practising doctong an unpiloted cargo craft with Mir mander Lazutidh, into the airlock between Mir and the Soyuz: ually. The cargo ship missed and hit the Spekir scientific module, holing it and causing a desperate 20-minute effort to disconnect it from the rest of the station to prevent drastic decompression of the whole comple

The new Russian crew, Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov, will bear the main burden of linking Mir back to Spektr, whose solar panels contribute a good deal of the station's power. Michael Foale, the British-born astronaut who shared Tsibliyev and Lazzıtkin's nightmare mission, is waiting for an Atlantis shuttle to pick him up in September, and will probably take a back seat dur-

Helen Womack & Charles Arthur

California lawyer on trail of rich and famous

Gloria Allred, a Californian lawyer, is fast becoming a force to be reckoned with if you are rich and famous and concealing even the tiniest of skeletons in your closet - especially if the case is high profile and there blood test in Pakistan. "It is simply not possible for are feminist implications.

Fresh from winning a long-running battle between heiress Sita White and the former cricketer Imran Khan, to have him declared the father of her child, Ms Allred has filed a suit on behalf of an unnamed "Californian model" claiming that Dodi Fayed has broken off their engagement.

Ms White, the daughter of the late Lord White, a partner in the Hanson conglomerate, obtained a ruling that the international cricket star, now a Pakistani politician, is the father of her five-year-old daughter, Tyrian. The ruling was obtained by default, as Mr Khan, who has always strenuously denied paternity, did not appear for the hearing or supply a blood sam-

Yesterday Mr Khan, who is now married to the late Sir James Goldsmith's daughter, Jemima, issued a statement saying that he would submit himself to a me to travel the world fighting court cases in every country," he said.

Filing the successful outcome of that case under her designer belt, Ms Allred has struck again claiming damages for breach of contract and "distress" following the publication of photographs of Dodi Fayed kissing Diana, Princess of Wales. "An American model was engaged to be married to

Dodi Fayed until last week," she said, adding that she would later be providing "important information about their relationship at the time of the 'kiss' photo." Whether Dodi Fayed would use that adjective is an-

other matter. But it would seem that high-profile men tangle with Ms Alired at their peril.

Kate Watson-Smyth

HEALTH

Menstrual cycle can affect breast cancer screening

Women are twice as likely to wrongly be given the all-clear during breast cancer screening if they go for the test during the last two weeks of their menstrual cycle, researchers warn today.

A study of 8,887 menstruating women found that when breast cancer screening was carried out during the last 14 days of their menstrual cycle, they faced double the risk of being told they had not got cancer when in fact they had compared with those who had not got cancer when in fact they had, compared with those who had the test during the first two weeks.

Researchers claim their findings could explain why women under 50 do not benefit from mammogram screening as much as older women. The research, published today in the medical journal Cancer, examined data of menstruating women aged 40-44 collected by the Canadian National Breast Screening Study.

Researchers compared manumogram results of women during days one to 14 of their menstrual cycle with those in the last 14 days. They also looked at whether the women had taken hormones in the form of oral contraceptive or replacement therapy, and found most of them had or were continuing to use them.

The risk was found to be reduced among women who had never Mammograms are well known in the medical world to be less

accurate in younger women than older women. Researchers claim this study shows there is an opportunity to improve the accuracy of mammograms by choosing to have the tests done during the first half of the menstrual cycle.

FOOD

Burger bias puts young at risk

Young people's taste for burgers and kebabs, which may have put them at higher risk of catching Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, is disclosed in new figures showing more than three times as many

16-24 year olds ate these fast foods as 50-64 year olds in 1986-87, the time when BSE-infected beef was in the food chain.

Professor Nicholas Day and colleagues at the University of Cambridge, who publish their findings in the British Medical Journal, say it is the first time

that data has been assembled confirming what anyone can see on the streets any Saturday night. "We were surprised by the strength of the association," Professor

Day said. A second study showed that nger people were also more likely to eat meat pies and pasties. However, the journal says the link between BSE and the existence of new variant CJD, which has so far affected 21 young people, remains to be established.

Jeremy Laurance



DISEASE

HIV-resistant gene is not unusual

Genetic resistance to HIV, the virus that causes Aids, may be more common than has been supposed. American scientists report today that they have discovered a gene variation found in about 30 per cent of all races which confers resistance - though not immunity -

The gene, which affects the shape of a chemical receptor on human cells, called a chemokine, extends the period that HIVpositive people can survive without developing the immune system collapse that occurs in Aids. Those with the mutation can survive to up to 16 years, rather than the two or three years typical in HIVinfected people who have so far died of Aids.

Cancer Institute in Maryland found a relatively common mutation in a gene called CCR2, which makes one of the cell receptors that the virus needs, in order to become established and infect the body. HIV is a "retrovirus", and works by insinuating itself into the cell's reproductive machinery, so that future copies of the cell also

Scientists discovered last year that some people are effectively immune to HIV because they have a mutation in another chemokine, called CCR5. That occurs in roughly 1 per cent of caucasians, but apparently not in other ethnic groups.

The CCR2 mutation is found in all ethnic groups tested,

including Hispanics, blacks and whites. The new finding could be significant for developing therapies in future. Charles Arthur

New judge in schoolgirl murder case

A judge who has been co-ordinating the gation into the rape and murder of British teenager Caroline Dickinson In western France has been sacked and re-

placed with a "star" magistrate. The appeals court in Rennes removed Gerard Zaug and entrusted the case to Judge Renaud van Ruymbeke, one of the country's best-known investigating jurists.

The court also ordered police to carry out systematic genetics tests on all men aged 15 to 35 in Pleine-Fougeres, the Brittany village where the 13-year-old was strangled on 18 July, 1996 while on a school trip from Launceston, England.

Van Ruymbeke, who has gained a rep-utation for tenacity in his investigations of political scandals, was due to meet investigators of the paramilitary gendarmerie

to discuss the case. "We are very happy with what happened today. New avenues will be ex-plored," Caroline's father told reporters. He said Van Ruymbeke told him that new methods of investigation would be used. The Dickinsons had sought to have Zaug and the gendamerie taken off the case, arguing that they had made several

They filed a fresh lawsuit last month to demand further investigations, with a formal application for wider genetic testing, a public appeal for witnesses and the linking of the investigation with another probe into a sexual attack at a youth hostel a few miles away on the same night.

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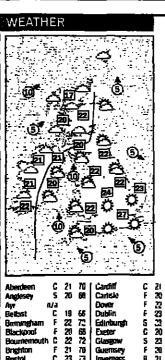
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General Situation and Outlook

England and Wales will have a dry day with long periods of warm sunshine. However, sea breezes may bring more in the way of patchy cloud and mist on to south and south-west coots and mist on to south and south-west coasts. Northern Ireland will be mainly cloudy with a little light rain here and there, but some sunshine is likely in the east. Western Scotland will be rather dull and misty with light rain at times which may affect the Grampians in the afternoon but much of costern Scotland will be due and warm with eastern Scotland will be dry and warm with

Tomorrow, all parts will have sunny snells. prolonged in many parts of England and Wales. However, rain will slowly edge into Northern Ireland and western Scotland from the west later on Saturday, but the bulk of the rain will be light and rather sporadic. On Sunday the rain in the north will mainly peter out although there will be a cloudy spell in the north for a time. England and Wales will remain dry with plenty of sunshine.

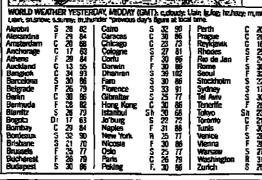
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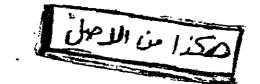
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indian independence 50 years on

Triumphal march of a nation

Jubilee party fills the streets with pride

Peter Popham Anwar Igbal

trual cycle can affed

Bergins Creft is not make

NATIONA REST RATE

t cancer screening

As they laboriously criss-cross New Delhi's vast boulevards and endless triumphal vistas, many visitors must have asked themselves: what on earth is it all for? Last night the answer was provided: for events like this.

As the Golden Jubilee of India's independence got under way with a huge March of the Nation last night, the ceremonial heart of Lutyens's imperium was transformed into a sea of celebrating people.

Eight stages have been erected, punctuating the lawns that flank Rajpath, formerly Kings-way, Delhi's gigantic answer to London's Mall. Twenty-eight teams of dancers from different parts of the country did their stuff during the early evening as the crowds began to build.

Then at 9pm prompt the March of the Nation was flagged off from the east end of the boulevard. Hundreds of freedom fighters, veterans of the struggle against Britain who are now in their 80s and 90s, have been brought to Delhi for the celebration. To the shame of the government, many have been accommodated in the most primitive lodgings, without beds and sharing two lavatories

among 70 people. But last night that typically Indian failure was forgotten as 74 Indian-made jeeps bore the freedom fighters in the van of the procession, leading some 15,000 people representing all regions and religions of the strikes and boycotts to mark the country towards the grand cli-max, a show of music, lasers and



Grand ceremony: All India gloried in its independence yesterday - "We just want to rejoice ... It's like when you get married". Photograph: Raghu Rai, Beauty Bath for Bride-to-be

fireworks in front of the Presidential Palace.

In the far north-east of the country, at a place called Silanibar in Assam, seven people were killed when a bomb planted by secessionists exploded un-der a train. Nobody claimed responsibility, but militant members of the Bodo tribe, one of a number of ethnic groups in the North-east fighting to break 50th anniversary of India's own independence.

In Pakistan, too, the celebrations were marred by violence. A violent riot erupted in Karachi after police fired on surging crowds celebrating Pakistan's 50th anniversary, and two young men were killed.

Thousands of people had gathered outside the tomb of the nation's founder, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, in a colourful ceremony that quickly turned from jubilant to violent. Soon after a speech by Prime he appealed to Pakistan's peo-

ple to put an end to violence racking the nation, police moved in with batons to disperse the crowd. Enraged, several people took off their shoes and began throwing them at po-lice guards. One officer sprayed bullets into the crowd.

Mr Sharif used a flag-raising ceremony in Islamabad to issue a fresh call for peace with India and a solution to the 50year-old Kashmir dispute, one of the legacies of partition. "I Minister Nawaz Sharif, in which hope that India would also respond with the same sincerity by

withdrawing its forces from oc-cupied Kashmir and putting an end to atrocities there and were to gather for a nationally hence pave the way for establishment of lasting peace in the region," he declared. The Indian government, in a

reminder of the divide between the two nations, accused Pakistan of developing nuclear warheads for medium-range missiles. In-dia and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947; hundreds of thousands died in the aftermath of partition, and millions

televised re-enactment of the historic sitting of India's constituent assembly on 14 August 1947. They were to hear a recording of the famous "tryst with destiny" speech delivered by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in which he called for an end to "poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity."

Just before midnight last

night, MPs and other dignitaries

pride. The city centre has been filled with flags and strings of marigolds and greenery, and all the prominent buildings have been thrown into brilliant silhouette by banks of lightbulbs. For one evening the nation's

rain the day before, the domi-nant mood was serenity and

problems are forgotten. This is really the first such event in our history," a spectator at Ra-jpath said. "We are so happy, we really do not know what to do.
Yesterday in Delhi, on a
We just want to rejoice, it's just balmy night cooled by heavy like when you get married."

Fate in one man's hands

WH Auden had largely abandoned political verse after the Second World War, but he returned to it in the aftermath of Indian and Pakistani independence. His 1948 poem on partition comments on the decisions taken by British officials in the name of political expediency, which were followed by hundreds of thousands of deaths.

Partition

By W H Auden

Unbiased at least he was when he arrived on his mission. Having never set eyes on this land he was called to partition

Between two peoples
lanatically at odds,
With their different diets and
incompatible gods.
'Time', they had briefed him in
London, 'is short, it's too late
For mutual reconciliation of the The only solution now lies in separation. The Viceroy thinks, as you see

from his letter That the less you are seen in his company the better So we've arranged to provide you with other accommodation. We can give you four judges, two Moslem and two Hindu, To consult with, but the final

Shut up in a lonely mansion, with police night and day Patrolling the gardens to keep

He got down to work, to the task of settling the fate Of millions. The maps at his disposal were out of date And the Census Returns almost certainly incorrect. But there was no time to check them, no time to inspect Contested areas. The weather

was frightfully hot. And a bout of dysentary kept him constantly on the trot, But in søven weeks it was done, the frontiers decided. A continent for better or worse

The next day he sailed for England, where he quickly forgot The case, as a good lawyer must. Return he would not. Afraid, as he told his Club

that he might get shot.

Saga of Mahatma memorial shows spiritual father has no place in people's hearts

Peter Popham in New Delhi

ohandas Gandhi is invariably de-scribed as the father of the Indi-an nation. Only the reckless take his name in vain: when a campaigner for homosexual rights described him on a television chat show here two years ago as a "bastard grocer", or words to that effect, the show was axed, the executives of Rupert Murdoch's Star television channel made to apologise, parliament went into special session and the outspoken fellow was sued by one of Gandhi's grandsous. Gandhi's spectral voice was heard in the

Central Hall of Delhi's parliament building last night as India celebrated its Golden Jubilee by replaying recordings from the days of the freedom struggle. But the man they call the Mahatma, "Great Soul", was in other ways absent.

After nearly 30 years of bickering, the

government still cannot agree on a place in the capital for his statue. And a recent opinion poll in a weekly magazine con-firmed what most Indians readily admit that they no longer have a place for him in their hearts. Of the more than 12,000 people polled, only 14 per cent named Gandhi as a national leader who has inspired them.

Born in 1869 the child of merchants in

Gujarat (hence the "grocer" slur), Gand-hi broke with caste tradition and sailed to England to become a lawyer. Back in India he was too nervous to speak in court and eked a living as a clerk before sailing to South Africa, where he stayed for more than 20 years. It was there on behalf of the Indian community that he developed the techniques of peaceful protest that he was to employ with such devastating effect against the British in India.

Gandhi was an abstemious character: not only a vegetarian (obeying a promise made to his mother) and a teetotaller, but after 1908 a celibate. He was also obsessively interested in excrement. ("Have you had a good bowel movement this morning sisters?" was his usual greeting to his female devo-tees.) But the fad which came to define him above all concerned his appearance.

More than any other figure in 20th-century politics except perhaps Mao Zedong (with his jacket and cap), Gandhi used clothing as a weapon in the struggle. In a new book serialised recently in the Asian Age entitled "Clothing Matters: Gandhi and the Recreation of Indian Dress", Emma Tarlo describes the evolution of his ideas on the subject: from the top hat and frock



Gandhi: Image of saintliness that people could revere without having to follow

coat he affected in London, to shorts and shirts made from sacks, the shapeless robes of a peasant, and finally to the ultimate sim-plicity and affront of a homespun loincloth. Gandhi's adoption of clothing alien to

his own class and caste served several purposes. Arriving in Britain for the first time wearing white flannels, he was upset to find himself odd man out. But from then on he turned the embarrassment of inappropri-ate dress against the Empire. Dressed like a villager, he caused the colonial authorities acute awkwardness, while evoking huge support from the poorest Indians by

so vividly declaring solidarity with them. From his dramatic adoption of the khadi - homespun loincloth - in 1921, in protest at Britain's refusal to grant home rule. Gandhi's obsession deepened and broadened. Everyone should wear khadi, people morally. Conversely, as Tarlo puts it, "foreign cloth was so intrinsically vile that contact with it was physically and mental-

Filthy, untouchable and "our greatest outward pollution" was how Gandhi described the wearing of foreign clothes. In so doing be brought back the notion of un-touchability he had fought against so hard on questions of caste, and alienated many

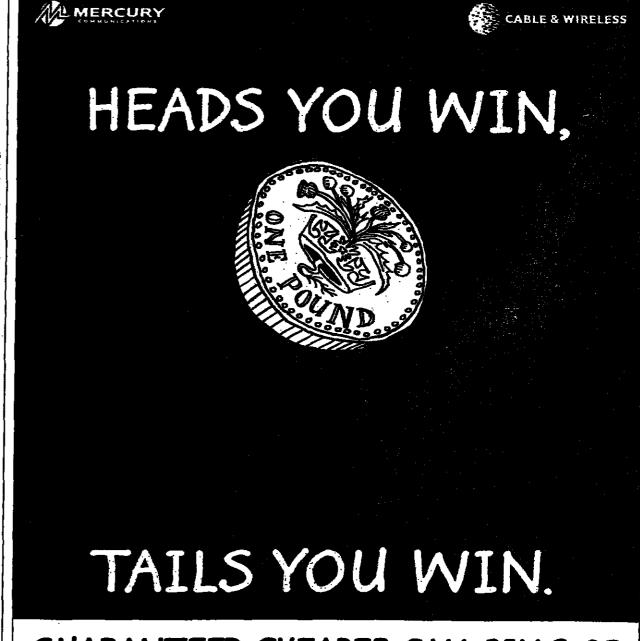
of his supporters among the intelligentsia. Gandhi's crankiness about clothes was matched by the eccentricity of his politi-cal and economic ideas. His bible was Ruskin's Unto This Last, a defining work of the late-Victorian reaction against the Industrial Revolution and a plea for the restoration of agrarian values. Gandhi read the book in South Africa and claimed it instantly transformed his life. Ever after, he argued vehemently against Westernisation and modernisation. In his book Hind Swaraj (1909) he denounced even such benign imports as railways and doctors. In the process he instilled a deep mistrust of modernity and economic growth which has

hogtied the nation's development ever since. Today, as politicians mull over where to put his statue, Gandhi's legacy is in tatters. The rural hamlet of Sevagram in Madhya was where Gandhi tried to realise his ideal of swadesh - self-sufficiency - and khadi and some other Gandhian products are still made there. But workers employed by Gandhi's disciples are poorly paid, the alcohol prohibition the community insists on has given nearby bootleggers a roaring trade; while the community's opposition to a steel project planned for the area has consigned the hamlet to backwardness.

I blame Gandhi," one local graduate told a reporter. "His anti-machinery the ory has proved wrong. We have good educational facilities, but no way of generating jobs." Ruskin's prescriptions have proved disastrous in a country as poor as this. Gandhi failed; but his failure was pre-

dictable as early as the Twenties when the mass of Indians failed to adopt his beloved homespun as their dress. Instead of converting to his ideas, they made him a sort of mascot - an image of saintliness they could revere without having to follow. Whether he willed it or not, a sort of Christ-like aura came to surround Gandhi, culminating in his murder in 1948 by a fellow Hindu.

Yesterday, while long queues waited to tour the handsome and well-appointed museum devoted to Indira Gandhi, the sad and shabby Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Museum was practically deserted. And now in Delhi, though birds have nests and foxes have holes, the father of India has no place he declared. Weating khadi could transform to raise his image.



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A British woman was missing feared dead yesterday after a freak flash flood while she was hiking in Arizona. Charlotte Warmington, 24, a nursery nurse, was feared drowned with 10 other hikers in an Arizona canyon after a flood sent down an 11-ft wall of water.

Her parents, Brian and Gillian Warmington, were waiting for developments after learning that their daughter Charlotte was missing. Her father, from Yarningdale Common, near Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, said: "She was quite a strong swimmer and this is what we are able to to hope for, because we feel that if she had an opportunity, she would have done something".

They were not the only family to suffer tragedy during a holiday. Relatives of student Charlotte Gibb, injured in a shooting which killed her boyfriend, Max Hunter, visited her in hospital in Israel, where

she had been holidaying.
Also in US another hiker, from Derbyshire, fell to his death in Yosemite National Park. In the Dominican Re-

evacuated from a hotel after it was found guests had contracted typhoid.

The incidents highlighted a spate of fatal and life-threatening incidents that have befallen British holidaymakers. Victims of violence in Cyprus and Hungary spoke yesterday about their experience.

To add to the atmosphere of uncertainty, Egyptian authori-ties said an Islamic group which massacred 18 Greek tourists outside a Cairo hotel last year had planned more attacks on foreigners.
Ms Gibb, 20, who was shot

while hitch-hiking with Mr Hunter, 22, was seen in hospital in Beersheba by her parents, David and Jennifer, and sister Gima, from Lincolnshire. Mr Gibb said: "She is recov-

ering well ... She seems to have had a very fortunate escape". In Yosemite National Park, California, Charles Richards, 67, from Derbyshire, died after falling 50 feet on Sunday. Offi-

what happened. In the Dominican Republic resort of Juan Dolio, Thomson

cials are trying to ascertain

makers from Diamond Costa Caribe Hotel after three women fell ill with typhoid. Another 85 people were diverted to another resort as a precaution.

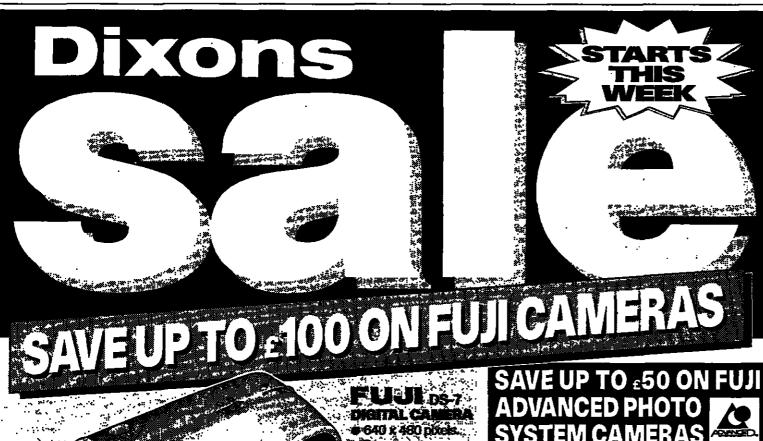
The three women were diagnosed as suffering from typhoid after tests in London following their return from the

In Cyprus a woman wept as she gave evidence at the trial of British soldiers accused of attacking her boyfriend at a holiday resort. Clare Harbour, 22, from Lee, south London, said they kicked and punched Barry Ford, 23. The soldiers, stationed in Cyprus with the 1st Battalion King's Regiment, are: Roger Bell, 26; Tim Carter, 27; Steven Wolstencroft, 26; Steven Girvan, 20 and Stuart Spencer, 20. They face charges of grievous bodily harm and actual

The widow of a Christian Aid worker beaten to death in Hungary vowed to return to continue her husband's mission. Jo Pollard. 55. and her husband, Michael, 62, from Baildon, near Bradford, were attacked by robbers while on a trip to deliver literature and clothes.



Masquerade: A member of the Players Company in London rehearsing The Love of the Nightingale, a Greek drama which will be performed on the Edinburgh Fringe. The chorus wear mirrored masks and the king and queen gold ones, sculpted by Andrew Logan



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Proust, Dostoevsky? No, simply the holiday diary of a duchess

Jojo Moyes

Students of parody were last night wondering how they could possibly better the efforts of the Duchess of York, who this week

with its carefree lack of syntax and almost obsessive references to food, led many to suspect a sophisticated, if cruel parody. "Pine trees: nuts. Fig trees: figs (how Alan Bates ate them in Women in Love!)," begins one section. "Olive trees: olives and oils. Sunflowers: more oils. Grapes: my favourite Cervaro. Pasta: spaghetti, taglierini, linguine. Meats: Par-ma ham. With every smell, I smell food. With every sight, I see food. I can almost hear

food. I want to spade the whole lot through my mouth at Mach But suspicions were illfounded. The duchess's office

confirmed that it was, in fact, all her own work. As Frank Johnson, editor of the Spectator, said yesterday: "No one could forge The diary, he said, had been written by the duchess at his request, and was neither a paro-

dy, nor ghost-written. "Like all great writers there are depths of meaning," he said, adding, af-ter a pause, "You have Proust, Dostoevsky ... Fergie. If she had ghost writer it must have been some kind of genius who



Duchess of York: Smells,

thinks in her mind. Indeed, much of it is almost

too Fergie-like to be true. She reveals the same talent for selfabasement that emerged from her encounter with television interviewer Ruby Wax, calling herself "ungrateful" and "vain". Her obsession with food, she says, is problematic, as she is meant to be "a paradigm of a weight loser - perhaps the only thing I am allowed to add to be-

ing a loser." But the duchess is nothing if not resourceful: "A brilliant idea comes to mind from reading Hello! I see the Queen of Sweden wearing a T-shirt with printed on it - maybe Weight-watchers won't notice if I put one on at the launch!"

The duchess is keen, however, that we do not forget her charitable credentials, not least her work with the Motor Neuwhom she has just held a golf

tournament.
"MND," she explains. "is the most debilitating, devastating, muscle wasting disease ... Andrew – steadfastly loyal to me and his Scottish Mutual team started his victorious round dead on time, having already made sure that he had wished his grandmother a happy birth-

day in the morning. There are digressions into childhood reminiscence, insights into family ("Andrew and I believe so much in this new Americanism of co-parenting") and the odd pieces of literary twiddle ("The red, earthy, laterite soil was kicked up as Andrew, Beatrice and Eugenie headed off into the distant Tuscan hills on their way to join

HMY Brittania") Perhaps mindful of her audience, the duchess throws in a couple of cultural references: to Dante - and Simba, from Disney's The Lion King. Her new editor is definitely happy with the result. "I knew she would be a good diarist ... I'll ask her to write again," says Mr Johnson. "Although we won't be running one every week."

Greer hits out at 'weak' Downey

Christian Wolmar

Ian Greer, the lobbyist at the centre for the cash-for-questions scandal, has criticised Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. for being too weak to resist media calls to censure the five former Tory MPs involved in the

In his first interview since the publication of Sir Gordon's report last month, Mr Greer says Sir Gordon has satisfied a lust for "heads" in an atmosphere that was "hot".

In the interview, which is to be broadcast on LWT's London Programme on Sunday, Mr Greer says Sir Gordon has left "a lot of questions unanswered". Sir Gordon found evidence

that Neil Hamilton had received cash payments directly from Harrods boss Mohamed Al Faved.

Mr Greer, who was found to have misled a previous Parliamentary investigation into the

relationship between lobbyists

and MPs, said he was "delighted" that he and his now bankrupt lobbying firm had been cleared of acting as "a conduit" for Mr Fayed.

Mr Greer says in the interview that he is "comfortable" with the findings about him and argues that the original allegations that MPs received cash for specifically tabling questions were not proved.

But he says: "[Downey] is a

distinguished civil servant, but he's not a judge; he's not infallible. He has ... arrived at a number of very surprising conclusions in his report." However, it would have "needed a man very much stronger than Sir Gordon Downey to have come down with a report that said: 'No, I do not believe that Hamilton or anyone else behaved wrongly' because the atmosphere in which Downey

prepared his report was _ hot. He added: "The media and, indeed, I believe the public. wanted heads and Downey has supplied those heads." Mr Greer also says he now

sometimes regrets dropping his libel action against The Guardian, which had alleged be had arranged for MPs to ask questions in Parliament in ex-

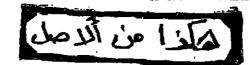
had never met Mr Fayed or taken him on as a client. The lobbyist also denies opcrating a "slush fund" made up of payments from Mr Fayed for

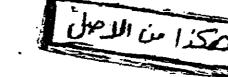
change for cash and wishes he

the purpose of paying MPs. Sir Gordon concluded that "there is a strong probability that cash payments, additional to his consultancy fee, were made to Mr Greer, over a pe-

riod of time ..." The Commons Standards and Privileges Committee agreed earlier this month with Sir Gordon's criticism of four of the five former Tory MPs he censured - Sir Andrew Bowden, Tim Smith, Michael Brown and

Sir Michael Grylls. It has yet to reach a decision about Mr Hamilton, who has submitted a lengthy rebuttal and will cross-examine him under oath in the Commons at a tele-





Men's glossies put Cosmo in slow lane

With sales of over 500,000, FHM has overtaken the most popular women's title

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

A milestone will be passed today in the magazine world when a men's magazine overtakes the best-selling women's glossy Cosmopolitan

for the first time.

FHM, the glossy lads' magazine, will announce that it is selling over half a million copies an issue. Meanwhile Cosmopolitan and its rival Marie Claire are expected by the publishing industry to announce that their sales have dropped slightly. leaving them selling around 450,000 copies per issue. Also likely to be up and gun-ning for the women's magazines

is Loaded, the lads' magazine which started the men's publishing revolution.

Only three years ago FHM was a sleepy men's fashion mag-azine selling less than 80,000 copies. But taking its lead from Loaded, which mixed humour with plenty of scantily-clad women, FHM re-invented itself as a magazine for the New Lad

The success of Loaded and FHM inspired a host of imitators including the straightforward such as Maxim to specialist titles like Eat Soup and Men's Health which all added flesh and irreverence to their editorial

Ten years ago the men's magazine sector did not exist. When GQ and Esquire were imported from America in the late Eighties they struggled to sell over 50,000 copies. Publishing industry wisdom then was that men would only buy magazines if they were about fishing or cars.

Now these magazines are big business. The last issue of FHM sold close to 600,000 copies, bringing EMAP £1.6m in cover price revenue for just one issue. In addition to this FHM made £4m in advertising in 1996 and is estimated to top £6m this year. The seven magazines in the men's glossy market are likely to be worth over £80m this year.

actioness

its out at Downey

The lads' magazines, with their reliance on near-naked

women and obsessional coverige of sex, have been blamed for wiping out the sales of top-shelf pornographic magazines. Earlier this year WH Smith pulled softporn titles from its shelves because they were no longer

up with women's magazines pushing against the boundaries of a format that you produce

intelligent, funny journalism for years. They helped reinvent the form. Women's magazines

way the men's magazines do.

The men credited with the lads' mag phenomenon - James Brown at Loaded and Mike Soutar at FHM - this year left their creations. James Brown has been charged by Condé Nast with making GQ a Loaded for men in their Thirties and Mr Soutar has moved to the radio station Kiss FM. Some industry experts

believe that they may have left because they know their 100 per cent per annum sales rises cannot continue, and that they decided to get out while they were at the top.

"The magazine that comes to mind is Viz." said Richard Britton, press buying director at media agency CIA Medi-

phenomenon too. Its sales rose really steeply and really fast in the Eighties. And they've been dropping off ever since." Leading article, page 13

Magazine editors believe

men's magazines are outpacing women's titles because they have taken risks and invested in innovative journalism: "Women's magazine are stuffed with people who grew said Richard Benson, editor of The Face, Britain's first style magazine for men and women. "But it is only when you are

ing against it. Loaded gave a forum to writers from the music press who had been putting out think and act in cliché."

Gill Hudson, who edits

Maxim, believes women's magazines are failing because they are not using humour the

anetwork. "It was a men's publishing



Sex and drugs and boys' own adventure stories

The cover lines on the pastiche we have constructed above may took ridiculous, but they tell the tale of how the new generation of magazines appeal to young men.

■How to pull a feminist: Many of these magazines: use the same style as women's magazines to cover a subject. And the subject is usually sex. Sex in hotel rooms; sex when you're drunk; sex with your best friend's girlfriend. All firmly tongue in cheek.

■Voluptuous in the Valleys: There is always a report of a hack's adventures, whether it is sampling the nightlife of Cardiff or swimming

with sharks. But their machismo is always undercut by humour.

III. Lounge Lizard: All the magazines include spreads on clothes and gadgets. Whether they are really for readers or to encourage advertisers is debatable. Loaded and FHM are for men in the early 20s; their readers need to be told what is cool.

Buttocks for the beach: Health and fitness magazines are doing surprisingly well – most publishers thought the idea was too vain and American for British men. But the magazines are careful not set aspirations too high.



Relationships, relationships... but are they enough?

Some of the cover lines on women's magazines are beyond satirising, but each one of ours above represents the tried and

Women do the ironing

■ Astro Adultery: Combining sex with horoscopes is the apotheosis of the women's magazine. Cosmo led the way and magazines are always about relationships, relationships and relationships. Adultery features because of the vicarious thrill; astrology because their tatalist philosophy appeals to those without

power in society. Black is the new white: Fashion magazines supposedly keep you abreast of trends. In fact they ensure the obsolescence of your wardrobe and encourage advertisers.

■ The tying game: Aneddotal stories of an anonymous love life – usually "Caroline, 23, who works in publishing..." – and first person confessionals help to add more relationship fodder to the mix while getting some fairly explicit sex into the magazine.

■ Tweezer terror: It is easy to criticise them for thriving on sensationalist health scares. But if women's magazines don't campaign for better breast cancer screening, no one will.



If your home is plagued by rising damp, you'll be only too aware of its effects. There's always a dank, musty smell, unsightly stains and talk to us now on freephone mildew in the form of black fungus. And because the fungus spores are inhaled, it can be a health hazard especially to the young and old. Rising damp can considerably reduce the value of your home.

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Serial A-graders get seven of the best

A new phenomenon emerged yesterday - the serial A-grader. Whereas in the past students were content with three, perhaps four, A-levels, this year pupils were notching up to sev-

en grade As. Also, pupils who could not utter a word of English two years ago will be walking off to Oxbridge next term with an abundance of A-levels at top grades. George Turnbull, spokesman for the Associated

falling standards but improvement. In 1952 no one had climbed Mount Everest and at one stage the four-minute mile was a record but look at the sit-

uation now."

Philip Croker, of Weymouth,
Dorset, achieved a grade A in
statistics, pure maths, mechan
Tm not going to get drunk because I don't like to drink very much." His grades guarantee his place at Oxford, to study maths.

pupil at Kingswood School, Bath, Somerset, said: "I know it is a good result, but I didn't have to work flat-out. I don't do anything by half-measures. I'll celebrate with some friends but

Examining Board, the largest A- ics, physics, chemistry, music level board, said: "Seven A and general studies. Not sky about his achievements, the about his achievements, the level board, said: "Seven A about his achievements, the about his achievements, the level board, said: "Seven A about his achievements, said: "Seven A about his achievements, said: "Seven A Darlington, she excelled at German, maths, further maths, physics, history and general studies, ensuring a place at Oxford. She said: "When I looked at the bit of paper it was prob-

came to Britain five years ago from Norway. In 1995 she gained 10 GCSEs at A grade

years ago earned top university places. Natalia Slaska, 17, and yesterday celebrated her ably the best feeling I've ever four A grades, which have enhad in my life. Now I have a sured her a place to study modreading-list of about 100 books ern languages at Cambridge.

five A grades. He has now won a place at Cambridge University and is celebrating with his friends in Warsaw.

And a Russian boy who gained five A grades lived up to his name. Oleg Lerner came to Britain in 1991. In October he

Polish student Boguslaw will take his place at Oxford to Kysinski, 18, despite being unable to speak a word of English when he joined Clifton College, Bristol, two years ago, achieved will take his place at Oxford to read biochemistry. "I guess you could say I'm a bit of a science boffin," he admits. "All my friends seem to have done quite well too, but I don't know ex-

actly what grades they got, as I was plucked out of the queue to receive mine, as they were so good." Some households had a double helping of celebrations. On Merseyside, twins Tom and Geoff Johnstone, pupils of Mer-

Examining board denies school-leavers' ever-higher exam scores are a sign of falling standards chant Thylor Boys School, in Crosby, each gained four A

They shared their success with fellow student Michael Ledger-Lomas, of Freshfields, who was awarded the country's highest French mark by the Associated Examination Board. But he is to read history at Peterbouse College, Cambridge, after gaining A grades in five subjects. Twins David and Mark Johnson each scored three As



Emotional students lent a sympathetic ear

Esther Leach

The clearing helplines at Hud-dersfield University took 1,000 calls in less than two hours. The 12 telephone operators gave information and advice to often distressed students almost continuously. But by lunchtime there still had not been a single query about the new tuition fees "I don't think it is something stu-

dents are worried about," said Julie Pedler, Huddersfield University's Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer. "I find it a worry more for

the parents than the students. We have been busier than ever this year and the students' qualifications seem to be higher. We are hearing of fewer N and U grades." Mrs Pedler heads up the helpline operation with 10

women and two men, answering

ic and helpful manner.

"Don't despair," one operator told a caller. "I know it is a traumatic time. I'll put you through to the tutor and he may still be able to help you." As soon as the phone is replaced, it rang again.

The pleas for help and guidance are repeated throughout the

calls over the next two weeks.

They are part of the university staff chosen for their sympathet
to us all in the end," said one op
law course. The got all his points and is ringing to confirm his place on the law course. That's a nice feeling. erator. "I've taken a few calls from parents and teachers who are calling in because the students

have been too upset to speak. "I was talking to one mother and I could hear her daughter

sobbing in the background.

I've had only two tearful ones so

"I've answered calls each year for three years now and it is a very traumatic time.

"Even students who have done well get very excited and don't al-Yet another operator replaced ways make themselves clear. It's the phone and said: "That was a time of great turmoil for them. ways make themselves clear. It's about a third of whom are part

"I feel I'm helping people get what they want and we try to ensure they are being as realistic as possible especially if they don't get the grades they need

"We sympathise with them when the only alternative is to resit their exams."

Huddersfield University has a total student body of 15,000,

The best performing schools

The independent's A-level table features only state comprehensive schools. To ensure fair comparison, we do not include independent

schools or those that select by ability.

The rankings in the table are based on the average points scored by candidates taking two or more A-levels, and do not include general studles. An A grade earns ten points, a B grade eight points, a C grade six points and so on.

We contacted most of the 200 top state schools according to the Government's 1996 A-level league tables. Our table offers a guide to the best performing schools, but should not be viewed as definitive.

Chase High School, Malvern The Catholic High School, Chester Redbourne Upper School, Bedfordshire Caereinion High, Powys Northalierton College, Norhtalierton Richmond School, North Yorks. The Castle School, Thornbury Durham Johnston, Durham Anglo-European School, Essex London Oratory Lady Lumley's School, Pickering Lady Manners, Derbyshire St Mary's RC High School, Derbyshire King Edward VI School, Lichfield Huntington School, York Turton High, Bolton 18.7 Fallibroome High School Alsager School, Cheshire Tarportey County High School, Cheshire St Nicholas RC High School, Northwich Saffron Walden County High, Essex Stokesley School, Stokesley Upton-by-Chester County High, Chester Guiseley School, Leeds Old Swinford Hospital, Dudley Wymondham High School, Norfolk Ilkley Grammar School, Yorkshire Llanidioes High, Powys 17.6 John Part School, Derbyshire Sandbach High, Cheshire Trinity School, Nottingham Wilmslow High, Cheshire All Hatlows Catholic High, Cheshire St Aidan's and St John Fisher Associate Sixth Form, Harrogate Tapton School, Sheffield Holmes Chapel, Cheshire The Becket School, Nottinghamshire 16.4 Allerton High School, Leeds Churchill Community School, Bristol The Minster School, Nottinghamshire Ysgol Y Presell, Pembrokeshire 16.2 Droltwich High, Hereford and Worcester 15.9 Pershore High, Hereford and Worcester 15.9 Rivington and Blackrod School, Bolton Parrs Wood School, Manchester The Lakes School, Windermere 15.7 Notre Dame School. Sheffield 15.7 Wolfreton School, Hull

Did Eve make footprints in the sand 117,000 years ago?

Washington (Reuters) — A set of 117,000-year-old footprints found in South Africa is possible evidence of a woman who could be the common ancestor of all modern humans, the fossils' discoverers said yesterday. Made by bare feet in wet sand after a rainstorm, the prints

are an important clue to a period with a scarce fossil record: 100,000 to 300,000 years ago, when modern humans emerged.

"These were made by a person who looked anatomically just like us," said Lee Berger, a

palaecanthropologist who an-nounced the discovery at a news conference at the National Geographic Society in Washington, where a fibreglass cast of the

footprints was displayed. Mr Berger and David Roberts, a South African geol-ogist who found the fossils nearly two years ago, referred to the person who made the prints as "she", based on the small size of the feet, but acknowledged that it could have been a small man or a child. If the prints were made by a

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thropological "Eve", a hypo-thetical woman who lived in Africa between 100,000 and 300,000 years ago and carried a type of DNA that is passed on only through females. Eve is thought to be the

> that the prints were hers, he also said they were made at the right time and place to fit her profile. Mr Roberts, of the South African Council for Geoscience, found the footprints in the rocky shore of the Langebaan Lagoon, 60 miles (97km) north of Cape Town. The chances of them surviving to this day were "mil-lions to one", he said. To last this long, the footprints had to be quickly covered after being made, possibly by blowing sand, then buried for a long time to

common ancestor of modern

human, and while Mr Berger

said it was highly questionable

sediment from the ancient dunes could be chipped away to reveal them again. What he first saw was a ridge

be preserved in rock, then erod-

ed to the point where hardened

in the rock along the lagoon that showed where the ancient sand had been pushed aside by the side of the woman's foot; the actual footprint was filled with sand. . Mr Roberts was looking for footprints in the area because he had already found fossilized tracks of carnivores and rock fragments that had been worked on by hominids.

Only three other sets of ho-

minid footprints have been

found in Africa, and two of these came from more than a million years ago, too early for modern humans. The third set were dated about 30,000 years ago, a blink in the course of human evolution, Mr Berger said. The Langebaan footprints were dated by studying the sur-rounding sediments and noting the fluctuations in sea level in

the area over time, Mr Roberts said. The line of footprints stretches away from the shore into what used to be ancient sand dunes which are now buried under rock. Mr Berger said scientists plan to uncover those additional footprints.



Sands of time: The 84zin footprint fossils found on the rocky shore of Langebaan LagoonPhotograph: Kenneth Garrett

Bid to move TV 9pm watershed

Ormskirk Grammar, Ormskirk

Prince Henry's High, Evesham

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

ITV is battling to stop television's regulator "sanitising" television by moving the 9pm watershed to 10pm.

The Independent Television Commission (TTC) has issued a proposed programming code which insists that all programmes which start at 9pm and run until 10pm be "suitable for family viewing".

ITV is particularly worried about the plan because the timing of the News at Ten would mean it could not start running adult programmes until 10.30.

The ITC regulates pro-grammes on ITV, Channel 4 and cable and satellite. The watershed prevents nudity, sex or vi-olence being shown before 9pm.

TTV is also angry because the watershed on cable and satellite channels is already lower at

The draft plan also proposes that no one should be portrayed smoking in programmes unless there is "strong editorial justification for inclusion".
"Taken literally that would

Casablanca before 9pm because Humphrey Bogart smokes, for example," said an ITV spokeswoman.

A new clause would also ban

15.5

15.2

the depiction of drug-taking as "problem free and glamorous". An ITV source told the inclustry magazine Broadcast: "The ITC has gone too far. It has a sanitised view of life. They are Americanising television."

The ITC defended the proposals and said yesterday they were intended to generate discussion. "We are not saying there will never be films or dramas starting before 9pm which resolve with a certain amount of violence just before 10pm, only that it should not become a regular thing," said a spokes-

However, ITV is drawing up a strongly worded response op-

The ITC has issued warnings to broadcasters in the past for starting programmes on the 9pm watershed with adult scenes. Cracker was once censured for opening with a rape scene.

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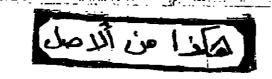
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(centre spread, tabloid section.)

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Ministers study cut in free dentistry on NHS

and lan Burrell

Most people's free dental treat-ment on the NHS could be limited to check-ups under radical plans being studied by ministers. The idea is to release funds to reverse a decline which has left nearly half of the country with-out an NHS dentist.

Ministers are considering reducing the number of dental treatments to those who aren't children, poor or elderly.Dentists might then be paid more to do the routine work. This, it is do the routine work. This, it is argued, would tempt them back into the NHS, so restoring national cover.

The plan goes beyond the restoration of free dental checks and eye check-ups for pen-sioners, reported yesterday.

Many patients have no choice of an NHS dentist in their area. and ministers are studying the idea of reversing the exodus from the NHS by dentists by focusing the money on areas where there is a shortage.

Expensive treatment on the NHS, such as bridge work at £600, would no longer be available. Ministers have been urged by dentists' leaders to go further by focusing on care and treat-

ment of children, the poor, and the restoration of a basic service, free of charge, for registration, diagnosis, advice and prevention for all adults. Funding for health authorities to tackle local NHS dentistry shortages was also

supported.
The British Dental Association said it favoured "targeting for children and those on low income, and all other adults should pay full charges for everything apart from a simple diagnostic service [i.e. check-

to be reached but "targeting" is on the agenda. Alan Milburn, the health minister, told MPs before the recess he would be undertaking with Tessa Jowell, the public health minister, "an important joint mitiative to ensure that access to NHS dentistry is more widely available and that our resources better improve the oral health of the population".

He has told officials that the former Tory government's efforts to reverse the exodus of dentists from the NHS through "access" funds have not worked. The pressure for action was in-



tensified by figures passed to The Independent showing millions of people have been struck off official registers after failing to turn up at surgeries because, it is feared, the cost of dental care has driven large sections of the

population away from dentists. Currently, dental patients have to pay around £4 for an initial consultancy, whereas it costs nothing for a basic ap-pointment with a doctor. Den-

approximately 80 per cent of the cost of any subsequent treatment they receive up to the val-

When the Conservatives came to power in 1979, dental tal patients have to pay patients were only obliged to each. NHS patients have to

pay for treatment which cost up to £5 and check-ups were free. The NHS has already reduced the scope of NHS cover from natural-looking porcelain crowns costing at least £150

settle for metal crowns. Under legislation introduced

by the former Tory government, people who fail to visit their dentist within a 15-month period are automatically deleted from the register.

Open wide: Many people brave the dentist's chair but in some parts of the country two-thirds of population do not go Photograph: Geraint Lewis

Figures obtained by Harry Barnes, the Labour MP, show that 4.1 million people lapsed

from the register last year. from the register last year.

Although others will have reregistered, the proportion of the
population using a dentist is in
steady free fall and only 21 million adults, 52 per cent of the
population, are now registered.

The age group which is most
readily abandoning dental care
is the 25 to 24 years ald brack

is the 25 to 34-year-old bracket, among whom there has been a 16 per cent fall in dental registrations in the past three

More alarmingly, figures produced by the Government's Dental Practice Board show that in some parts of the country, more than two thirds of children do not visit the dentist.

There are also areas where two thirds of the adult population do not see a dentist. The only section of the population among which dental registration is not declining is the over-75 age group, which normally does not pay for treatment.

Paedophile to be tagged

Patricia Wynn Davies

In the first case of its kind, a convicted paedophile has volunteered to be electronically tagged after telling police he would attack another child.

Seddon, 43, is not serving a sentence, or on bail or licence and so is no longer subject to criminal justice agencies. Seddon served six years of a

nme-year sentence for the rape and sexual assault of a nineyear-old girl in Manchester in 1990. He was arrested earlier this year in the Merseyside area with a bag containing sweets and a colouring book. Initially he was sent to a psy-

chiatric clinic in Huyton, Merseyside, but the authorities had no power to detain him because his condition is deemed untreatable. He can likewise opt to discontinue the monitoring at any time because he is no longer under sentence. Seddon, from Rochdale,

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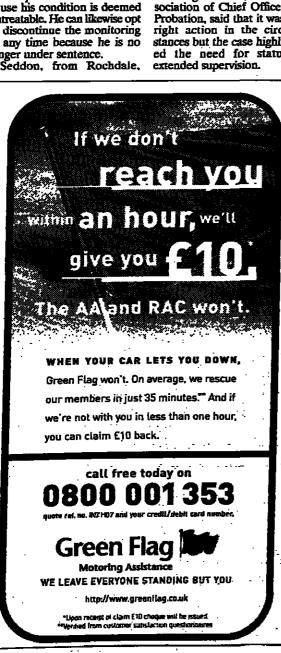
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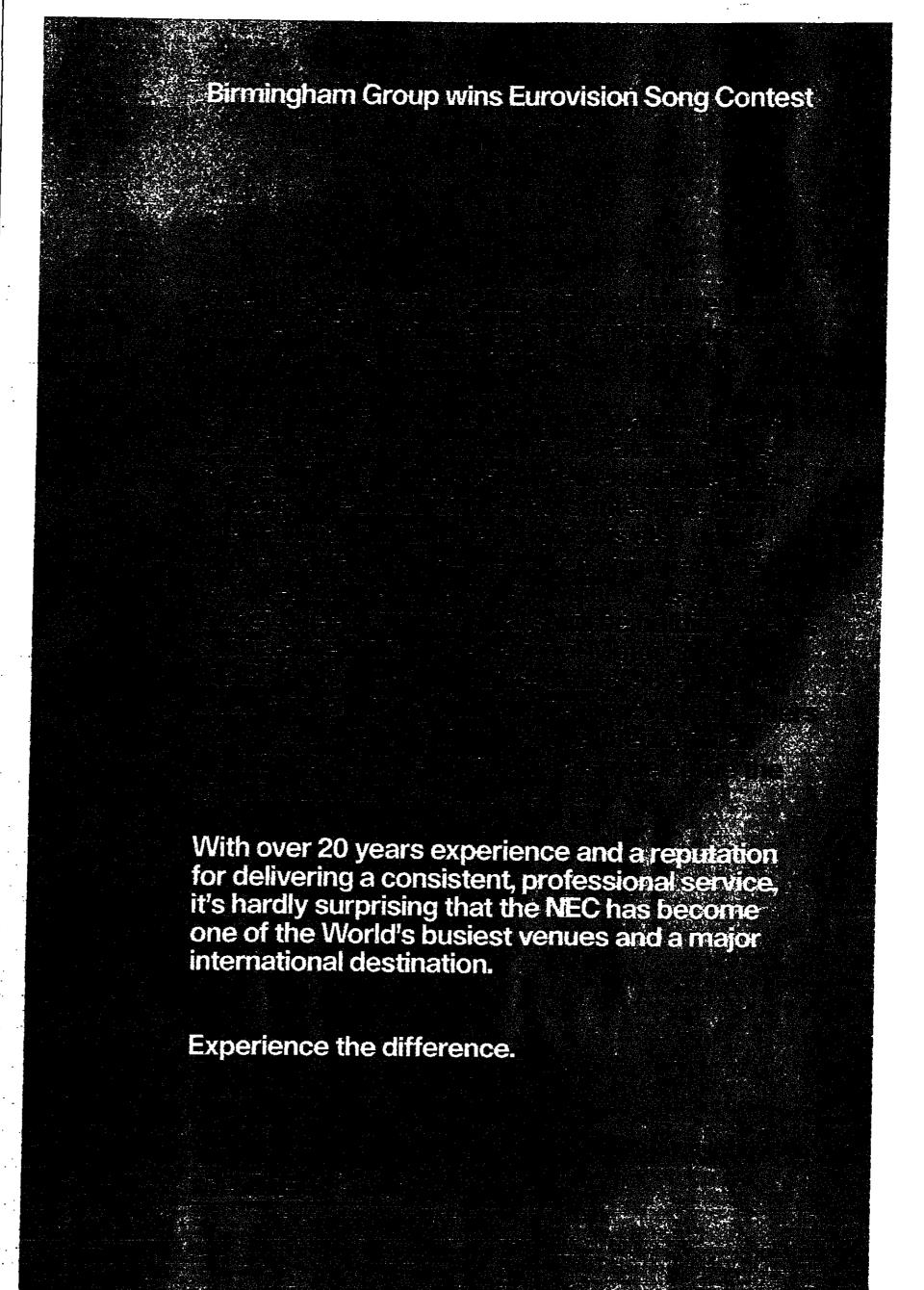
watch in a hostel, and escorted whenever he leaves the building. The electronic tag will monitor his presence at or absence from the hostel.

The move was welcomed by The case is doubly unusual the People's Power group of because child-rapist Graham Huyton parents angered by the People's Power group of Seddon's release from the clinic into the community.

But there were also doubts about the experiment. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "The case sets a worrying precedent because it involves someone accepting a punishment without due process. It is also difficult to see how this is going to significantly improve the protection of children beyond what is already in place."

George Barrow, for the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said that it was the right action in the circumstances but the case highlighted the need for statutory





The Naes try to swing it

In Scotland: Borders fret on devolution

Stephen Goodwin

When the Scottish referendum results start flashing up on the electronic scoreboard at Edinburgh's International Confercampaigners will be keeping an anxious look-out for the vote in the Borders.

The robustly independentminded folk who inhabit the historic market towns and rolling countryside drained by the River Tweed are the most devosceptic of all Scots. As one so-called "Souter o' Selkirk" put it to The Independent, an Edinburgh parliament would be just another 129 politicians "blethering a lot o' bloody hash".

The Borderer's first loyalty is to his or her burgh - witness the passions of Borders rugby and the ancient custom of Common Ridings, a ceremonial inspection of the burgh boundaries. After that, loyalty is to the region itself, often with closer ties to neighbours in Northumberland than in the central belt. As to business, right back to the cattle-thieving "reivers" it was always a cross-border affair.

In the 1979 referendum the Borders had the highest "No" vote in Scotland - 59.7 per cent (30,780). In Scotland as a whole, 51.6 per cent voted majority was insufficient to meet the required threshold.

The Borderers were afraid a parliament would be dominated by the monolithic municipal socialists of the central belt. right John Nairn, whose butch-Much is being made by ministers and pro-devolution parties of the theory that the switch to proportional representation should prevent one-party rule.

But ask the parallel of Sallish control of the co But ask the people of Selkirk or Hawick if they are reassured Gordon Stirrat, sales manand they look at you quizzically and say - "Aye, I'm not sure about that." It is the unconvinced equivalent of "I hear

Opinion polls show the "I wear the kilt, I support the Borders likely to vote "Yes" by Scottish rugby team, and I'm as a modest majority, but John nationalistic as anybody but we Smalle, editor of the Southern don't need an expensive talking Reporter, thinks interest is low shop.

and the outcome still "too close to call". The threatened ban on fox hunting has generated far more letters to his paper than

The two parliamentary conence Centre in the early hours stituencies of the Scottish Borof 12 September, home rule ders Council return Liberal Democrat MPs, though more out of an anti-Establishment tradition than an abiding belief in Paddy Ashdown's policies. And until recently nearly all Borders

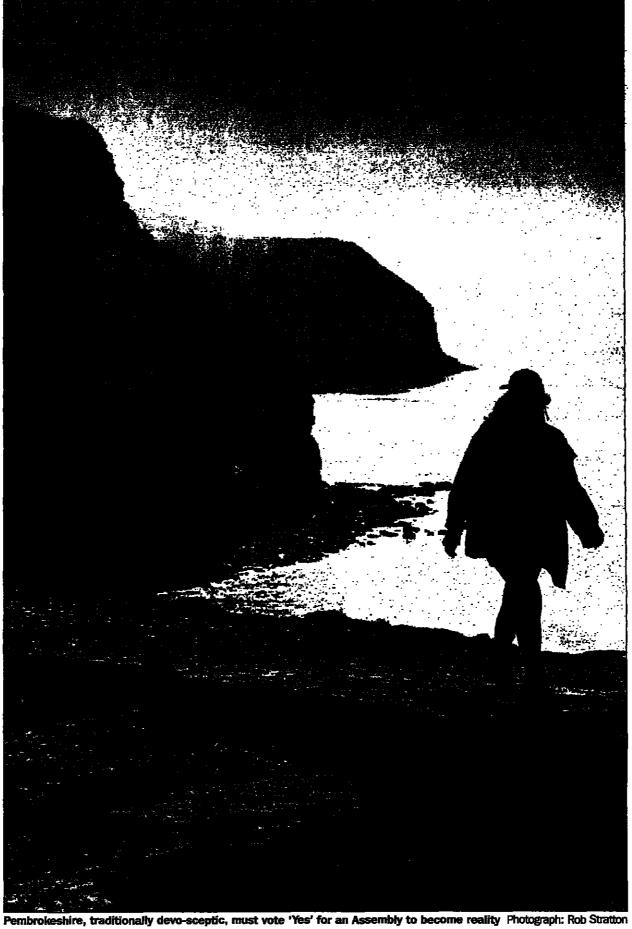
councillors sat as Independents. Michael Moore, who has succeeded David (now Lord) Steel as MP for Tweeddale. Ettrick and Lauderdale, plans a campaign of general electionstyle intensity in the fortnight before the poll to try and mobilise the party's supporters but he admits there is "politics fatigue" even among local activists.

Mr Moore too would not have supported devolution in 1979 because of the risk of domination by the central belt. Another negative factor that weighed heavily at the time was the intervention on the "No" side of the most influential Border laird, the former Conservative Prime Minister Lord Home.

Even so, on the street in Selkirk opinion seemed to con-firm Mr Moore's view that there is still all to play for. "Yes", though the simple Among those who expressed support it was usually an "on balance" or "I think its going to happen this time" sort of thing rather than gushing enthusiasm.

Opponents were more forth-Gordon Stirrat, sales man-

ager at McNabs saddlery, blamed a "vociferous minority" for leading Scotland into something that the majority, and par-



In Wales: Little England holds the key

Although the handle "Little England beyond Wales" still lives on in Pembrokeshire, opposition to devolution may just be on the wane. Even long-

standing opponents detect faint signs of change.

For the dream of a Welsh Assembly to become reality, the people of Pembrokeshire will have to turn out in numbers on 18 September and vote "Yes" in

In 1979, the rejection by the people of Pembrokeshire was decisive when Wales opposed devolution by 4 to 1. The explanation for that decision lies partly in geography. Pembrokeshire is to Wales as Cornwall is to England: a peninsula which is physically and psychologically semi-detached and somewhat independent-minded.

lan Bell, chairman of the Pembrokeshire Hotels and Restaurants Association is no lover of the Government's proposals. However, he concedes that views have changed since 1979's four-to-one defeat of devolution proposals: "I reckon today it's 60-40 against

an assembly."
His hotel stands on a bluff overlooking Saunderstoot, a tidy resort which received a share of the 70,000 tons of oil which spewed from the stricken Sea Empress at Milford Haven 18 months ago.

Today the beaches have recovered from the disaster fully for the return of our which pushed Pembrokeshire into the news and up the political agenda.

Michael Williams, who rep-

resents Tenby, the area's premier resort, on Pembrokeshire County Council, believes that bodies like the Milford Haven Port Authority which faces prosecution by the Environment Agency over the accident, could be reined in by an elected body. south when he visited Walcs last

go-state and there's a growing desire for non-elected bodies being made more accountable." Nick Ainger, MP for Pem-

volution tide rising: "A lot has changed in 18 years. The election campaign down here revealed that many who voted 'No' in 1979, are on the move.'

"The Callaghan government was exhausted in 1979 after five years in office, Jackie Lawrence, MP for Prescelli Pembroke points out. "Today there is an air of confidence following Labour's victory on 1

May."
She said that there must be a change in the current situation which sees Wales' 1,273 elected councillors being outnum-bered by 1,400 quango appointees who are responsible for nearly a third of the annu-al £7bn Welsh Office budget. There is still a lot to play for

tidal rivers, salt water is never more than 10 miles away. Pembrokeshire County Council is holding fire until next month when it will meet to decide its stance. But earlier this week, acting in a personal capacity, council chair, Peter Stock, launched the Pem-brokeshire "No" campaign.

in a county where, thanks to a

heavily fretted coastline and

At the launch, two thousand balloons were released over Haverfordwest, each one representing the cost of 10 hip replacements which the antidevolutionists claim could be paid for with the £117m they say the assembly will cost over a four-year period. Mr Stock said: We fought hard and successunitary authority only to be faced now with a proposal for an additional tier of

government. That is a point of view strenuously opposed by his colleague, Thomas Tudor who chairs the county's "Yes"

campaign.
The Prime Minister, who concentrated on the industrial Severn Bridge again before 18 September. His Englishness could give the "Yes" campaign a boost in "Little England brokeshire South and Car- beyond Wales".

Blair offers No 10 as home for Scottish art

David Lister Arts News Editor

The Prime Minister Tony Blair wants to hang Scottish paintings and portraits of Scottish heroes on the walls of Downing Street as a reminder of his Edinburgh school

days.

Mr Blair, who attended the city's Fettes School, is particularly keen that a portrait of his own hero Sir Walter Scott, the author of Ivanhoe, is given pride of place at No 10, and that there is a greater representation of Scottish art.

The director of the National Galleries of Scotland, Timothy Clifford, has had private talks with Mr Blair about Scottish art, and increasing the Downing Street collection. He will have to consult his trustees on whether paintings can be taken from the walls of the Edinburgh galleries or from the mass of Scottish paintings currently in storage.
The Prime Minister has told Mr Clifford

that he wants a portrait of Scott. But he stipulated that he did not want a portrait of the poet Robbie Burns. He did not give any reason for excluding Burns from his wish list, but as an avid nationalist with an insatiable taste for drink and women, he is not natural new Labour material.

Mr Clifford is in overall charge of the National Gallery, Portrait Gallery and

Modern Art Museum. An exhibition of the 18th-century portrait painter Henry Raeburn is packing in crowds at the Edinburgh Festival but there is likely to be opposition from National Gallery trustees to a Raeburn leaving the public collections to go

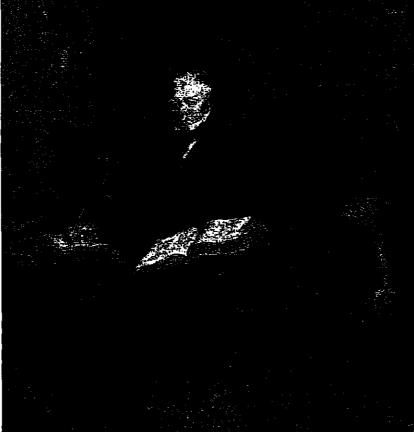
Mr Blair's interest in Scottish culture is exciting reciprocal interest in the Scottish capital. At the Royal Museum, Sheila Brock, campaign officer, said yesterday she would be happy to supply objects from Scot-tish history for 10 Downing Street and would be talking to Mr Blair.

Mr Clifford said that to have a prime minister, chancellor and foreign secretary with an interest in Scottish culture was unique in his experience.

Mr Clifford is himself promoting plans for a gallery devoted to Scottish art in Glasgow. The £31m project could open within five years and contain a thousand paintings by Scottish artists.

At present the National Gallery in Edinburgh has only seven Scottish paintings on display in its permanent collection. "It's tokenism really," said Mr Clifford.

"We have seven-eighths of our collection in store and one has to show the Titians and Cézannes, and the Scottish artists lose out. There is a massive need for a gallery devoted



Grant's portrait of Sir Walter Scott could end up in No 10 Courtesy: Bridgeman Gainsborough or Reynolds. But they are

Colourists please, but not kilts or claymores

The news that Tony Blair wants Scottish art for the walls of Downing Street is cheering. It may help fan interest in one of Europe's lesser known traditions. It is not, however, as unexpected as it may seem. One of the Prime Minister's closest friends, Derry Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, is a keen collector of Scottish painting, while another Cabinet minister, Donald Dewar, is hugely knowledgeable on the subject.

It would be a pity, however, if all that happened was the despatch to London of a few varnished yards of uneasy-lookof one of the Victorians. There are much more interesting things to borrow.

If Mr Dewar or Lord Irvine are

consulted. Blair will end up with a few Scottish colourists - those fluid post-Impressionists whose dazzling land-scapes brought full colour to Scotland in the Twenties and Thirties. He will have seen some on Lord Irvine's walls. He should ask for a Peploe, a Cadell or a Leslie Hunter, whose best work is much better than most of the stuff in No 10.

An alternative is to go for one of the earlier giants of Scottish art, such as Allan Ramsay or Raeburn. Both are very hardly in tune with Blair's promise of a "young country"".

So should he, perhaps, come bang up to date and go for the young figurative painters from Glasgow, or the sculptors? The trouble there is that they are ... well, not quite suitable. Peter Howson is best known for his paintings of fat, tattooed and sweating maniacs being pulled along by pit-bull terriers. They are undeniably vivid accounts of contemporary life - but not, perhaps, quite the image Blair wants to convey. As for Ken Currie, the best of the lot, he is (let us lower our voices) a 'militant socialist. He paints sadists, secret policemen, and tormented-looking souls. There are heroes in his work, but they look worrying like Communists. Again, not quite the thing for a cham-

pagne reception. Then there are people such as Andy Goldsworthy, the sculptor who now lives in south-west Scotland. The trouble is, he works in ice, mud, leaves, sticks and stones. A lot of puddles, one fears, on the nice Persian carpets.

So it's a tricky job, perhaps, that the galleries in Scotland now have. Who shall they send to the court of King Tony? There should be only one rule: no kilts, stags or claymores.

Andrew Marr

Defence orders overshoot as war is declared on waste

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

The cost of all but one of Britain's 25 biggest defence projects went up last year and only five of them are expected to be on time, according to a

report issued yesterday. The National Audit Office report says that the average delay on major projects, worth £33bn in total, has increased from 35 to 40 months; the Chailenger 2 tank project slipped by a further two years and is now three years late, although not significantly over price. The EH 101 Merlin helicopter project is expected to cost £650m more than originally envisaged - "in part due to crashes of prototype aircraft" - and is ex-

pected in service five years late. Just two weeks ago George Robertson, the Secretary of

State for Defence, committed himself to the elimination of waste as part of the Strategic Defence Review. He focused on the procurement of defence equipment which takes about £9bn a year out of the £23bn-a -year defence hudget.

In evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence, Mr Robertson announced a drive for "smart procurement", using new contractual procedures to get the £160m off the price of the Navy's best value for money and mak-ing more use of commercial

products. In some cases, the NAO found new methods had already worked - especially the "no acceptable price, no contract arrangement which had knocked two new commando assault ships from £589 m to £429m.

the MoD to get its act together. The NAO, headed by Sir Alan Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, notes that although the ministry filled in the

However, most of the report's information on running costs for findings are a sharp reminder to older equipment was "weak or incomplete in three out of five cases where a slippage of two or more years had occurred. This could adversely affect their though the ministry filled in the sheets it was given correctly, its priorities accurately."

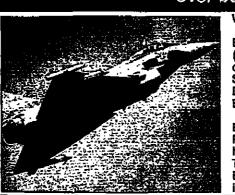
The only major project where (2 per cent) overall. Another big estimated costs decreased is project, the Eurofighter 2000 also the biggest - Trident nuclear submarines, where a reduction of £3.4bn is forecast. This helped absorb a net forecast increase on the other 24 projects, giving a drop of £694m

aircraft, shows a net increase of £1,3bn, and the remaining 23 projects about the same. The MoD said a quarter of

the slippages were deliberate, in order to balance their books by delaying expenditure, and not because of delay on the part of manufacturers, which the audit office recognised.

The report also accepted that the MoD had agreed a re-covery plan with Vickers, the tank builders, to try to get the project back on schedule. With international projects - the four-nation Eurofighter and the Cobra radar system - the problems of dealing with other countries (Germany, in both cases) delayed the expected inservice date.

NAO, Major Projects Report 1996. HC 238, 15 August 1997



Worst five cost overruns.

Eurofighter 2000 multi-role aircraft (pictured left). Built by British Aerospace in collaboration with German, Italian and Spanish firms. Total cost of 232, £15bn. Estimated cost increase: £1,360m. Estimated in service: 40 months late.

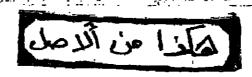
EH 101 Merlin helicopter (pictured right; Photograph: APL) (Navy) and support helicopter (Army/Marines). GKN/Westland. Total cost of 66 helicopters: £5bn. Estimated cost increase: £650m, estimated in service: 64 months late.

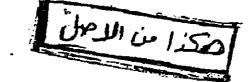
Over budget and overdue: Eurofighter, Merlin helicopter and Tornado Spearfish heavyweight torpedo. GEC-Marconi. Total cost - number classified -£1.7bn. Estimated cost increase: £200m.

> Tomado GR1 mid-life update modifications. British Aerospace. Total cost of 142 aircraft: £934m. Estimated cost increase £400m. Estimated in service: 64

Estimated in service: 80 months late.

Extra Sea Harriers (to replace lost aircraft). British Aerospace. Total cost of 23, £293m. Estimated cost increase: £100m, Estimated in service: on time.





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being one of them.) 'The Learning Zone' meanwhile, is designed for viewers who want to record programmes during the night, then watch them at a convenient time.

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international

Berliners get hump with race stunt

Berlin (Reuters) - A caravan of 11 camels from Abu Dhabi loped through Berlin's Brandenburg Gate yesterday. In a publicity stunt to promote Europe's first came! races on Sunday, Germans and Arabs wearing white robes and traditional head-dresses led the beasts through the gate, which is symbolic of German unification. Some 30,000 peo-ple are expected to attend the six races, organised under the patronage of the President of the United Arab Emirates, Zayed bin Sultan al Nahayan, and the German camel-racing club, Fatamorgana. The event is aimed at improving ties between the countries, though some German animal-lovers have urged a boycott of the races, saying camels are not suited to northern European terrain or climate. "Camels may be a little strange for Berlin," the Emirates Interior Minister, Khalfan Khamis, said. "But sport is an impor-tant part of our culture and I hope we can use it to build a bridge for greater co-opera-





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Indonesia rocked by currency collapse

Richard Lloyd Parry

Indonesia yesterday succumbed to the attacks of speculators and allowed its currency, the rupiah, to devalue on the foreign exchange markets, the third such victim of the financial turmoil which has shaken South-East Asian economies in the last six specks.

The dollar rose by 130 rupiah on the previous day to close at an all-time high of 2,780 rupiah yesterday, after the Indonesian central bank abandoned attempts to defend the value of its currency. "Theoretically, it's a free float," said Sudradjad Djiwandono, the bank's governor.

"You can also call it a managed float without a band."

The situation is similar to the sterling crisis which forced Britain to drop out of the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM) in 1992. The rupiah has hitherto traded in a narrow band, announced in advance by the central bank in order to promote stability in the

financial markets.

On Wednesday, Bank Indonesia is believed to have sold between \$200m (£126m) and \$500m in an attempt to beat off the depredations of currency speculators who were trading on the hunch that the rupiah's stated level is not supported by the fundamental strength of the country's economy. Yesterday, like Britain in 1992, the bank concluded that the price of de-

fending its currency exceeded

the cost of letting it to slide.

Last month the Thai baht and the Filipino peso were both devalued in a regional crisis which has drastically undermined confidence in the vaunted "tiger economies" of South-East Asia. At a regional meeting in Malaysia last month, ministers angrily blamed the currency turmoil on the billionaire speculator George Soros, whose Quantum Fund also played a key

role in the ERM sterling crisis.

Mr Soros supports a charitable foundation campaigning for democracy in Burma, and the Malaysian prime minister.

Mahathir Mohamad, accused him of deliberately undermining the region's governments because of the Burmese junta's admission to the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

But to most economists, the activities of Mr Soros and others look more like a natural response to weak economic fundamentals. Thailand, long a buoyant economy, has been suffering from sluggish growth, a swelling trade deficit and negative equity; at a meeting in Tokyo this week, Asian governments and the International Monetary Fund came up with \$16bn to bail the country out. Indonesia's economy has been relatively healthy, but the recent devaluation and the increase in the cost of the dollar will increase the repayment costs of Indonesia's \$55.5bn of

10 Italians held by Yemen tribes

Rome (Reuters) — Ten Italians, including a nine-year-old boy, have been abducted in two incidents in Yemen, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

Foreign Ministry said.

A ministry official said a first group of six people was kidnapped in the south of the country on Wednesday while on their way to Al Mukallaa on the Gulf of Aden coast. They had been taken to the interior of Yemen. "We have spoken to one of them and they are well, they are being treated well," the

The group consisted of one family with a nine-year-old son and another with a daughter whose age was not yet known. Earlier reports from the capital Sanaa had said five or six European tourists, either Ger-

ital Sanaa had said five or six European tourists, either Germans or Italians, had also been kidnapped by tribesmen while on a tour in the Abyan governate and taken to Shabwa in central Yemen.

The ministry official in Rome

rate ministry outched in Rome said four more Italians were kidnapped near Khamir, some 60 miles north of Sanaa, yesterday morning, but he had no further details.

etails.

The incident was the third in-

volving Italians in recent weeks in Yemen, one of the Arah world's poorest countries.

An Italian kidnapped by tribesmen earlier in August was released last Sunday after five days. Two others were abducted in late July and freed after one day.

In March, four German holidaymakers were kidnapped. Earlier that month, seven Germans touring the country on motorcycles were also abducted.

Kidnapping is a common tactic by Yemeni tribes holding grievances against the government or foreign oil firms operating in Yemen. Tribesmen have attempted to use hostages – who have included French and US diplomats and on one occasion the Saudi ambassador – as bargaining chips in land and water disputes.

All hostages have been released unharmed so far. Giorgio Bonanomi, the 49-year-old Italian who was released last Sunday, said he was never afraid and had been treated throughout very well, adding that it was an enjoyable cultural experience.

significant shorts

Timothy McVeigh refuses to plead for his life

Timothy McVeigh was formally sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing after he quoted a former Supreme Court judge who said government "teaches the people by its example." McVeigh said he was quoting from a dissenting opinion by Louis Brandeis in a 1928 wiretapping case. "Our government is the hope, the omnipotent teacher. For good or for ill, it teaches the people by its example. That's all I have, Your Honour." Except for the reference to government setting a bad example by killing someone, he did not plead for his life.

AP - Denver

Freedom, 52 years too late

Nine Indonesian tribesman have come down from a mountain in Sulawesi and said they believed the Dutch still ruled the country. On Sunday Indonesia celebrates its 52nd anniversary of independence. Reuters – Jakarta

Vietnam parties on

Vietnam's Communist Party said membership was booming and reported figures showing 47,000 people had joined during the first half of this year. Reuters - Hanol

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Franks for the memory

Sausage enthusiasts can make a pilgrimage to the home village of Johann Georg Lahner, the butcher who cooked up the wurst early last century. Gasseldorf, Bavaria, has marked his 225th birthday with a plaque recounting the history of the hotdog.

AP - Frankfurt

YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU BEO IT!

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inside north korea

From

famine

to smiling

faces: the



Haves: Offspring of the party élite at a special crèche

If you are going to have your hotel room broken into and your belongings thoroughly searched, it is generally advisable to have professionals

on the job.

North Korea, which is not famous for international expertise in many things, must, however, be a contender in the search, surveillance and bugging stakes.

I can vouch for its expertise. Within hours of arriving in the North Korean capital. Pyongyang, and being whisked out to see a display of acrobatics, a performance art curiously beloved by all Communist regimes, my belongings back at the hotel had been searched. I only know this because I happened to be carrying some packs of

The seal on each pack was neatly slit open. Nothing was stolen from the baggage and everything, including the cigars,

was carefully replaced. Following a trip out of town

there must have been another search, as I returned to find my shortwave radio unable to pick to be in the hotel lobby every up the BBC World Service. Presumably the paranoid people who run North Korea suspected the Sony Corporation of Japan had equipped me with a radio receiver which also acted as a transmitter. Alas, this is not so, but the search for evidence clearly involved changing the radio's various settings and

distorts the sound. I conservatively estimate that I, and a colleague from New Zcaland. surveillance for at least 95 per cent of the time we were in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

pushing a small switch which

We had two minders and a driver (the minders also have to mind each other). Our thousand and one barmy telephones and rooms were excuses why this cannot be bugged and it was clear our

every move was shadowed. The forces of coincidence are Kaesong, near the border with inadequate to explain how it was south Korea. The previous day that one of the minders would an aid official told us about

twisted reality the party minders Photograph: Stephen Vines make sure time we attempted to leave. A journalist's visa was out of the question for visiting North Koyou see rea, so we came as tourists. It probably took the minders a day and a half to work out that we were journalists. That was when the ques-

tions about the kind of work

we did started to flow thick

breaking of our cover would

rapidly lead to expulsion but,

strangely, this is not how things

are done in North Korea.

involved in an elaborate, some-

It might be thought that the

Stephen Vines in Pyongyang

visiting an orphanage in the city where the children were in pretty bleak condition.

Instead of expulsion you get Could we visit the orphanage? The first response was that it was difficult because it was not times uncomfortable game with your minders. You ask to see on the itinerary, which includthis and that and they find a ed visits to various historical sites. We admitted to being historically ignorant and wishing to remain so. The minders For example, we were in mulled this over and took us to a hotel where the head of security for the area happened to

He told us the situation in Kaesong was tense and ex-plained how difficult it would be to allow deviations from fixed itineraries. We persisted. Phone calls were made. Finally there was an answer.

We were told that, given the co-operative nature of Korean society, there were very few orphans and therefore hardly any to see.

This was a lie. How about going back to Pyongyang and Great Leader, Kim Il Sung, and visiting a crèche? they said. It the Dear Leader, Kim Jong II,



seemed better than viewing some bells once rung by the wicked, decadent monarchs who once ruled Korea.

The crèche turned out to be a haven for the children of the party élite. It was devoid of the privations commonplace in a land ravished by famine and

shortages of every kind.
Typically, the Koreans wanted to show us how well they were doing. Inadvertently they had given us a peek at the way the elite is living while the rest of the nation makes do on practically nothing.

The pride of the regime, and its unwillingness to admit the scale of the disaster it is inflicting on its people, leads it to invest in the most ludicrous schemes to erect an edifice of well-being.

That is why, for example, there are magnificent highways leading out of the capital to the southern border and up north to the centre of the country, where a massive shrine to the Great Leader, Kim II Sung, and pierces the tranquil countryside. There is practically no traf-fic on these roads. The fuel shortage alone explains why this is so.

Yet the road going south even has a deserted highway restaurant built as a bridge spanning the road below. Goodness only knows what kind of food could be obtained

there. We made do with a cup of indifferent tea and a bottle of water. The tricky times come when

you try to take photographs. On the one occasion when we were able to spend any time alone walking the streets of the capital, we found ourselves being shadowed by two unfriendly looking men who did little to disguise their interest in our activities and seemed always to be going in the same

direction as ourselves. After this incident there was stand-off with the minders. who demanded we hand over film shot by my colleague. The reason given was that in

a maternity hospital, she might have cut off the head of either the Great or Dear Leader, who were depicted in a mural in the

Nothing was said about the street scenes we had been photographing. I am still not quite sure how we got out of this one. although it took about 12 hours

In the end one of the minders said: "You must promise not to publish this picture."

It was the nearest they came to mentioning that we were reporters. We politely ignored the implication of this remark and no more was said.

Despite the Orwellian tinge of the country, the people. including the minders, were remarkably friendly and, in a Korean sort of way, remarkably

It is tantalising to imagine how they would fare under another kind of system. ■ This is the last of a three-part

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Professor Carel Weight

During Carel Weight's tenure as Professor of Painting at the Royal College of Art he re-ceived an unexpected letter which he endured intense critfrom the Queen asking him to icism, particularly from his fa-join a select party of guests staying overnight at Windsor Castle. Noting the invitation was dated 1 April, Weight assumed it to be an April Fool. Typically, he did nothing about it for a while but nevertheless worried quietly until he eventually discovered that the summons was absolutely genuine.

The incident reflects some of position and his ambivalence about his own value. On the one hand Weight's career as a painter is an astonishing success story in which he carved an independent and highly individ-ual reputation whilst finding a market for his work that remained undiminished from his first exhibition at the Cooling Gallery in 1933 to the present day. Alongside this, he held for 16 years one of the most prestigious teaching jobs in Britain, spanning a period when the RCA's reputation was at its zenith.

Yet at the same time Weight rarely received serious critical attention and was, to a great extent, overshadowed - in publicity terms at least - by the golden generation of students whom he taught and whose work often seems to bear almost no relationship to the values he

Weight's beginnings were in-auspicious. He was born in London in 1908, in Paddington. His father was a bank clerk and his part-German mother a chirepodist and manicurist with a high-society clientele and pretensions of her own. (Known to his family by his first name, Victor, Weight owed "Carel" to one of his mother's Dutch clients who told her, "I'll make it worth the child's while when he grows up if he bears my name." The man left England in 1910

and was never heard of again.) Mindful of her career, his mother farmed her only child out to foster-parents in an im-

poverished household at World's End, allowing him aside in the parental home for a live-in maid, there was no bedroom for Carel.

Although he acknowledged that his parents did have great affection for him, it was for Rose, his foster-mother, that the young Weight's deepest feelings vere reserved and his sensitivities to the hardships of her life the ambiguity of Weight's -she was "in service" and later suffered greatly through illness - perhaps foreshadowed the empathy for female vulnerability that is so often the subject of his mysterious, high-

anxiety paintings.
In the neighbourhood of Rose's house, Weight encountered children too poor to wear shoes and characters such as the shell-shocked "Engine Joe" who would jabber among the children, believing himself to be a train. At school there was a further terror in the form of a tyrannical master who threat-ened to thrash Weight if he used the word "um" again whilst reading aloud. The inevitable happened, and the blow the child received possibly did less damage than his feeling of humiliation of which he remarked almost 80 years later, "That had a great effect on me really. I became very frightened of all sorts of people and it took a

Unsurprisingly, Weight en-dured nightmares all his life, many of which fed into his paintings. When, in the 1950s. he sought a setting for The Day of Doom, a painting in which he wanted to express the prevailing atmosphere of threat from the atom bomb and the beginnings of the Cold War, he thought back to the time in his life where he had been most afraid and settled on a fire he had witnessed in Fulham when he was three or four years old.

tison the name Victor in favour of Carel was an indication of the inner assurance which complemented the fearful side of his personality. Sidestepping his mother's ambition for him to become a singer and his parents' certainty that to become an Austin 7. artist necessarily meant starving in a garret, Weight joined the Hammersmith School of Art in 1926, where the training was so formal that there were no mixed-sex classes and one fellow student was expelled for speaking to a female model. It was in this environment

that Weight began his lifelong friendship with Ruskin Spear. An important influence at this stage was their teacher, James Bateman, who had himself been taught by Tonks at the Slade, and who instructed his own students in compositional laws based largely on an analysis of Piero della Francesca. Weight enjoyed this approach but his independence was soon to assert itself and he resisted Bateman's urgings to make his fig-ures realistic and was quick to recognise the limitations of his

When Bateman moved to Goldsmiths' he encouraged Weight to continue his education there and it was here that the young painter met Helen

tutor's own work.

long, long time to break myself very lovely to have somebody who was thinking in a similar way to you and with whom one could discuss all sorts of

> paintings Weight produced had a strong element of documentary truth about them, but they fit absolutely into his later work in which witches and lions, ghosts and fairies, populate south London or the landscapes of Sussex and Dorset. (One of Weight's war paintings, showing passengers fleeing from a bombed bus, was rejected by the War Office on the grounds that it depicted the British public in a state of panic.) Weight was later sent abroad, where he worked in Greece, Italy and Austria, and his letters home to Helen were published by the Camberwell Press in 1988.

Once he was demobbed, Weight combined teaching posts with a determined concentration on his own painting, completing a series of works based on views of the Thames, many of them from Gravesend. A painting of this period, The Return of the Prodigal Son, contains many elements that were Roeder, who was to be his part- to make up his distinctive lanner for the rest of his life. The guage, setting a biblical story level of Weight's thirst for com-panionship at this time was alongside the towpath at Ham-mersmith Bridge: "I wanted it caught in his reminiscences in to be a really convincing story a 1991 interview: "It was very, and I wanted it to be as con-

exciting things."
Between 40 and 50 of Weight's early canvases were

lost when a bomb destroyed his studio in the Second World War and he was, briefly and unhappily (and somewhat hilariously), put on active service before Kenneth Clark rescued him by appointing him an official war artist. The combination of warfare and suburbia as a mix Weight might have dreamt up Perhaps the decision to jetfor himself and it was characteristic that he should make a series of paintings centred on an incident in which the zebra house at London Zoo was bombed, allowing one animal to stampede the local streets chased by an attendant in an In this case the series of

> 'I wanted it to be a humorous picture, and the lion to be a lovable lion': Weight's 1932 painting Allegro Strepitoso temporary as I could get it." The painting is one of the rare instances where Weight's figures are running towards one another rather than in flight from each other. Despite his many friends and

the immense amount of affection he inspired, Weight's sense of isolation never left him. Speaking of his painting The World We Live In in 1991, he said, "It's just two people. They may have been in love with each other, I don't know. But they've been very close but it's all come to nothing. They're just two solitary figures. That's very much theme. It's similar to my diploma picture in the Royal Academy, The Silence. I think love and all that sort of thing is rather superficial. You can love people, but it doesn't bring you any closer to them."

Despite his recognition of the limitations of human relationships, Weight numbered among his many friends the painters Edward Bawden and John Nash (with whom he would go on rather grumpy painting holi-days) and Julian Trevelyan and Mary Fedden (with whom he spent holidays in France,

dressed rather formally and

demanding that Mary cook

meat and two vegetables for him at lunchtime before she and Jalian skipped off for a picnic by the river and swimming), Stan-ley Spencer and L.S. Lowry. Similarly, he formed close and lasting friendships with many of his students and the sympathy he showed to them was undoubtedly a measure of

to this day. Denying any desire to dye his own hair pink or green, Weight nevertheless cut a path that was the pressures be had felt himhis students' greater success, he self. He had no wish for discicontinued to show at the Roy-

coming out of the gents was this

gorgeous golden-haired figure. It was quite a surprise. Unlike

most blonds, he remains blond

where he had a steady and teacher seems to have been in growing following (and where allowing other painters to fol-low their own instincts, offering he was given a retrospective exhibition in 1982), and maingentle encouragement where he could. He thoroughly enjoyed his heady Royal College days tained his regular pattern of commuting by bus between his and was proud of the fact that home in Clapham and his Puthe was the first person to see ney studio - the landscape that David Hockney as a blond: "He was a brunet. One day I was was to Weight what Cookham was to Stanley Spencer - buildwalking rather early in the ing a vast body of work that has morning in the college and yet to be properly assessed.

> Cathy Courtney Carel Victor Morlais Weight,

artist: born London 10 September 1908; RBA 1934, Hon RBA 1972; staff, Royal College of Art 1947-73, Fellow 1956-97 (Senior Fellow 1984-97), Professor of utterly his own. Apparently Painting 1957-73 (Emeritus); without jealousy in the face of ARA 1955, RA 1965; CBE 1962: Hon RWS 1985; CH 1995; married 1990 Helen Roeder, died ples and his strength as a al Academy every summer, London 13 August 1997.



In the history of Scottish culture initially on sound discs and latin the 20th century, Douglas er on film, of the great per-Gray's name deserves more formers of the day. From very tion. Without him, many of the major figures - actors, musihave remained unrecorded or at most sadly under-represented in the sound and vision archives. However, in truth, he would not have appreciated his efforts being celebrated; he was very modest and preferred to be as inconspicuous as possible - not easy for a large man, well over

6ft tall and frequently kilted. Born into a successful timber business in Aberdeenshire in 1922, Gray was a high achiever academically both at Aberdeen Grammar School and at Aberdeen University, where he obtained a first class honours degree in Economics. Even before he took his degree, his intelligence and his technical ability had led him to an unspecified role (certainly he would not talk about it) in the development of radar in the latter years of the Second World

His lifelong passion, however, was for all forms of Scottish culture and from 1946 onwards

modest beginnings in his parents' house in Aberdeen, he set up Park Film Studios in Glasgirth, near Kirkintilloch, which he ran as an arts venue, and eventually to Brig o' Turk in the Trossachs

None of these moves seemed to simplify the apparent technical chaos in which he operated. It was the hallmark of Gray's operations that from circumstances that for anyone else would have been practically impossible he would produce extremely important work. What was even more remarkable was that the most distinguished performers would be willingly recorded, in conditions that they would normally take exception to, simply because of Gray's charm and ut-

and the performance. Unusual and often amusing hazards, such as the interruption during a take by large dogs (two Great Danes), or not infrequent mechanical malfunctions. did not deter Scotland's celebrities from making memorable, he set about making recordings, historically priceless, record-

ings. Hugh MacDiarmid, Norman MacCaig, George Mackay Brown, Edwin Muir, George Bruce and Sidney Goodsir Smith were among the writers; Andrew Cruickshank, Duncan Fleming, Jean Taylor Smith, Iain Cuthbertson, Edith Mc-Arthur, Roddy McMillan and John Grieve among the actors; the singers included Jean Red-path, Bill McCue, Joan Alexander, Duncan Robertson and

many others. It was not only a matter of securing the voices for posterity. What they performed was as vital as who the performers were and Gray always had the highest regard for the original material. So, for example, the definitive version (many would argue) of "Tam o' Shanter" was Gray's 1947 recording of Harold Wightman. Similarly, in the first volume of his History ter commitment to the material of Scottish Music series, Later Middle Ages (1975), the marvellous works realised by Kenneth Elliott were performed by

a new group called the King's Although Gray was no businessman, and his attempts to promote his own work never

from time to time find his products in unexpected demand. In two instances the central figure was Duncan Macrae. A recording of Macrae's party piece "The Wee Cock Sparra" proved it discomforted the actor, who felt that it damaged his reputation as a serious stage per-

> a Clyde puffer to recreate Neil Munro's "Para Handy" on film In the 1960s, Gray turned to film to become a producer of educational and promotional documentaries. Meeting the demands of committees proved rather trying for him, even though the results were usually worthwhile. He was at his most successful when left to his

former. Macrae was also

involved when Gray got hold of

continuous activity he held only two conventional appointments as Assistant Director at the Scottish Film Council during the 1950s, and as a part-time economics lecturer at Glasgow University (where he met his wife Paula).

own devices. In over 50 years of

His love of Scottish culture was by no means confined to the

for the past 17 years, he was established as one of the key lo-cal figures, running the village post office (which characteristically he doubled as an art gallery), chairing the Trossachs the local newsletter, and being prominent on the local tourist hoant

Latterly, one of his principal concerns was to transfer his unique sound archive to digital recordings. His films had already been placed in the safekeeping of the Scottish Film Archive. Gray has, in effect, left his country a treasury for which it ought to be extremely grateful.

Douglas Gray had a very strong sense of culture but also of the importance of his family which was as large, vigorous and good-humoured as himself. His wife was prominent in the Riding for the Disabled Movement, of which he himself was a supporter.

David Bruce

Douglas Gray, record and film producer: born Aberdeen 8 October 1922; married 1953 Paula Cook (died 1991: two sons, two mgn arts. In his adopted home daughters); died Stirling 7 August 1997.



Robert Bryce



Robert Bryce was the leading Canadian public servant of his generation and a pupil of whom John Maynard Keynes would have been proud. He was Secretary to the Canadian Cabinet and Clerk of the Privy Council from 1954 to 1963 under the prime ministers Louis St Laurent, John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson and thereafter Deputy Minister of Finance until retirement on his 60th birthday in 1971. He had been Canada's first executive director of the World Bank in 1946 and served for three years after retirement as Canadian

Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund. The son of a goldminer, he took a degree in Engineering in Toronto before he came to St John's College, Cambridge, in 1932 with a group of young Canadians including Herbert Norman, the Canadian Ambassador who killed himself in

seemed to be adequate, he did

bridge to take his doctorate and died in Toronto last year. In Cambridge Bryce took a First in Economics in 1934 and was awarded a Commonwealth

soprano, 64; Lord Ingrow, former Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire,

Cairo in 1957 in the days of Mc-

Carthy, and Lorie Tarshis, who

remained for a time in Cam-

Fellowship, which at that time was for two years and required the holder to travel in the United States between his two years of university study (later reduced to one year and now abol-ished). I booked a seat in his car and travelled some 15,000 miles with him in the US and Canada in the summer of 1936 enjoying the equivalent of the Grand Tour and seeing far more of America than would

otherwise have been possible. Bryce had been a member of the "Keynes' Club" and a regular attender at his lectures before the publication of The

carefully prepared résumé of Keynesian doctrine which embodied Keynes's latest ideas and introduced these ideas to America, arousing great interest among his fellow students. After a year with the Sun Life Assurance Company, he en-

tered the Ministry of Finance in 1937, filling successive posts within the ministry for the next 32 years. He was a close adviser to every prime minister from W.L. Mackenzie King to Pierre Trudeau and exercised a pow-erful influence on Canadian

General Theory in 1936. He economic policy from the Sectook with him to Harvard a ond World War onwards. Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, paid tribute at his death to his long career in government as embodying the finest tradition of the Canadian public service: "He was a man of integrity and loyalty who made a great contribution to

Canada's progress as a nation."

Bryce's services were of particular importance when Diefenbaker came to power in 1957 after 22 years of Liberal rule. There were those who credited him with re-establishing trust between the government and

of the Privy Council, he gained the confidence of Diefenbaker - a conservative who regarded all bureaucrats as supporters of the Liberals.

se of culture: out of technical chaos Gray produc

In retirement Bryce was appointed chairman of a Royal Commission in 1975 on industrial monopolies but was obliged to resign because of ill-health. He produced a history of his department from 1867 to 1939 and had completed a second volume covering the war years but de-veloped Alzheimer's disease and was unable to publish it. He was, as his son has put it,

the public service when as Clerk a man of courage, probity and intelligence whose personal kindnesses made him a legend within the Canadian civil service.

Alec Cairneross

Robert Broughton Bryce, civil servant: born 27 February 1910; Secretary of the Canadian Treasury Board 1947-53; Secretary to the Cabinet and Clerk of the Privy Council 1954-63; Deputy Minister of Finance 1963-70; Executive Director, International Monetary Fund 1971-74; married 1937 (two sons, one daughter); died Ottawa, Canada 30 July 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

MARA: Professor Tim, suddenly, on 12 August, aged 48 years, Beloved hus-band of Bunta and father of Emily and Alice. Funeral service on Wednesday, 20 Averaged 10 15:00 30 August at 10.15am of Our Lady an St George RC Church, Walthamstow. Family flowers only, donations if de-sired to British Heart Foundation.

Announcements for Canette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, the Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or Greet to 0171-293 2010, and are released to 25 The Canada Square Palavade of 25 The Canada Square Canada Square Palavade of 25 The Canada Square Canada Square Palavade of 25 The Canada Square Cana

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. L. Tyson

The engagement is announced between Derek, younger son of Dr and Mrs K.W. Tyson, of Daigery Bay, Fife, and Sally, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W.G. Ross, of Turriff,

Birthdays

The Princess Royal, 47; Sir Charles Carter, economist, 78; Mr Jim Dale, actor, 62; Mr Edmund Dell, former overnment minister, and chairman, Prison Reform Trust, 76; Mr Hans Feibusch, mural painter and sculp-tor, 99; Mr James Flecker, Headmaster, Ardingly College, 58; Mr Lukas Foss, composer, 75; Miss Jenny Hanley, uctress, 50; Dame Wendy Hiller, actress, 85; Miss Rita Hunter,

80; Miss Joan Jefferson (Lady Appleyard). former Headmistress, St Swithun's School, Winchester, 51; Mr Jack Lynch, former Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, 80; Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP, 48; Sir Patrick

Naime, Chancellor, Essex University, 76; Sir Kenneth Newman, former Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 71; Maj-Gen Kenneth Perkins, 71; Mr Oscar Peterson, jazz planist, 72; Sir Oliver Popplewell, High Court judge, 70; Professor Sir Leon Radzinowicz, ninologist, 91; Lady Jean Rankin, Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to the Queen Mother, 92; Mr Jack Rus-sell, cricketer, 34; Sir Michael Rutter, child psychiatrist, 64; Air Vice-Marshal John de Milt Severne, Extra Equerry to the Queen, 72; Lord Stevn, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. 65; Mr Robert Syms MP, 41; Sir Stephen Tumim, Principal, St Ed-mund Hall, Oxford, 67; Sir Kenneth

Warren, engineering consultant, 71; Air Vice-Marshal Sir William Wrat-

Anniversaries

Births: Luigi Pulci, poet, 1432; Agostino Carracci, painter, baptised 1557; Gilles Ménage, lexicographer, 1613; Napoleon Bonaparte, French Emperor, 1769; Sir Walter Scott, novelist, 1771; Thomas De Quincey, essayist and critic, 1785; Sir Fienry James Sunner Maine, lawyer and his-torian, 1822; Léon-Gustave-Cycrien Gastinel, composer, 1823; Edouard de Hartog, composer, 1828; Walter Crane, painter and illustrator, 1845; James Keir Hardie, politician, 1856; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, composer, 1875; Ethel Barrymore (Ethel Mae Blythe), actress, 1879; Sir Peter Henry Buck (Te Rangi Hiroa), Maori anthropologist and politician, 1880; Edna Ferber, novelist and play-wright, 1887; Thomas Edward

chemist, 1896; Robert Oxton Bolt, playwright and screenwriter, 1924.
Deaths: Macbeth, King of Scotland, killed in battle 1057; Philippa of Hain-ault, Queen of Edward III, 1369; Pope Pius II, 1464; Lilian Adelaide Neilson (Elizabeth Ann Brown), ac-tress, 1880; William John Thoms, founder and editor of Notes and Queries, 1885; Joseph Joachim, violinist, 1907; Paul Signac, painter, 1935; Wiley Post, aviator, killed in an air crash 1935; René-François-Ghislain Magritte, Surrealist painter, 1967. On this day: nearly 500 French ships were destroyed by the Duke of Bedford at Harfleur, 1416; the Jesuits

(Society of Jesus) was founded in

Paris by Ignatius de Loyola, 1534; the Prussians under Frederick the Great

defeated the Austrians under Baron

von Laudon in the Battle of Liegnitz, 1760; the Panama Canal was opened

officially, 1914; the first London

Lawrence, soldier and writer, 1888; Gerty Theresa Cori (Radnitz), bio-

performance of the musical show Good News was presented, 1928; In-dia became independent, 1947; Pakistan, having separated from India, became independent, 1947; the repecame independent, 1947; the republic of (South) Korea was pro-claimed, 1948; the French Congo became independent, 1960; Bahrain became independent, 1971; in Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was deposed and later killed in a mil-itary cong. 1975. The decided of the congression itary coup, 1975. Today is the anniversary of VJ Day, 1945, and the Feast Day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, St Arnniph of Soissons and St Tarsicius.

Lectures

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "Bits and Pieces (iii): Gentile da Fab-riano. The Madonna and Child with Angels ('The Quaratesi Madonna')",

1pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Patri-

Japan and Bernard Leach's Pot-

Appointments

Mr Mark Pelles, to be Ambassador to the Holy See. Mr Peter Hildebrand, to be a full-

time Chairman of Industrial Tribunals, assigned to the Leeds region. Mr John Kenneth Macmillan, to be Regional Chairman of Industrial Tribunals for the Nottingham Region. Judge George Bathurst Norman, to be Senior Circuit Judge, sitting at

Mr Justice Douglas Brown, to be a Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit Mr Justice Thomas, to be a President

ing Judge of the Wales and Chester Mr Peter John Jacobs, to be a cir-

cuit judge, assigned to the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Southwark Crown Court.

Mr Rameshwar Singh and Mr Peter Milwyn Evans, to be district judges, on the Wales and Chester Circuit.

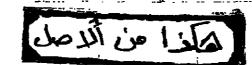
Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 8.09pm.

United Symagognes: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Symagognes: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Symagognes: 0171-580 1663. Reform Symagognes: 0171-580 1663. Reform Symagognes: 0171-580 1663. Reform Symagognes: 0171-289 2573. New London Symagogne: 0171-289 2573. New London Symagogne (Magogra): 0171-328 1676

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Changing of the Guard The King's Troup Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham; Ist Buttation the Royal Regiment of Wales mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace. 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.



Magazines for men – but not for Mr Average new medium has come of age. As we report today, the best-sell-ling men's magazine. FHM, has, for sexual athleticism, most of us aren't quite up to the Olympian heights that seem to be expected.

or the first time, outstripped sales of osmopolitan, the most popular romen's glossy. More than 600,000 nen are expected to fork out £2.60 for eptember's edition. Add to that the nassive sales for Loaded, GQ and the est of the middle-shelf fraternity and ou have the publishing phenomenon of the Nineties.

As a mirror to the Modern Man, hese new magazines reflect an image of a sex-mad male, gagging for fresh erotic adventure, a shopaholic, who dresses in the most expensive designer brands, reads cool fiction, enjoys the most exotic holidays. This man drives cars à la Steve McQueen, is in tip-top shape physically and likes his footie, but never has smelly socks or bad breath. Throughout his exertions, he remains immaculate, sporting a carefree stubble and a sophisticated fragrance. He's sexist, sure, and laddish, but in a charming, boyish sort of way, which only endears him to the bodice-burst-

ing babes who wander through his life. Dream on," we suspect will be the response from most women - and from many men. The reality is a bit different. There may be a few urbane types who fit the mould, but most of us (a male leader-writer confesses) still dress badly. drive boring saloons and have not completely solved the odour problem. As

in short, men's magazines are largely a fantasy, the glossy pornography of aspiration. And it isn't difficult to see who is in the driving seat. Leaf through the latest bumper editions and what you will find is essentially a hymn to autumn fashion, as the men's monthlies sing their love songs to the likes of Armani, Hugo Boss, Paul Smith, Nike and Calvin Klein, to name but a few. For the truth is that these magazines are not so much about the modern male in general as about ways to persuade single young men to part with their considerable disposable incomes.

There is no great evil in that. In many ways, we wish good luck to the pioneers of this new type of publishing, who have spotted a smart way to make a mint. But there is also something sour about this success. For these innovators have clearly identified a need, a feeling among men that they want magazines devoted to their lives. Yet the new media ultimately fails to satisfy. There is a brittle, surface feel about men's magazines that springs from their superficiality, their obsession with appearances, their preoccupation with the mechanics of sex, as though eroticism was no more than genital rubbing. What's missing is emotion, depth, the sense that they are about real lives. They promise much, but often feel hollow.



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 3405 / 0171-345 2435

Their hero is a narcissistic male, whose life is about premium lagers, designer drams and eau de toilette. They are thus a celebration of selfishness - FHM (acronym of For Him Magazine) says it all. They are cheerleaders for a rather narrow and particular lifestyle that has consumerism as its guiding principle. And so like many women's magazines, editorially subordinate to advertising, you find that most of the emphasis is on having or taking, with little thought devoted to that great aspiration - giving.

We're not asking for the purveyors of men's publishing to go on some moral crusade. But they should recognise that there is a vast swathe of men to whom they offer little in the long run. Fantasies are thrilling at first, but once replayed again and again in the same

predictable format, they grow dull.
Women's publishing has long realised that there is more to their readers' lives than achieving 20 orgasms a night. There are now a wide variety of publications catering for everything from young women just beginning sexual relationships to women getting married to those raising families and those in retirement. These publications also spend much of their time tackling

There are a host of issues that men have to deal with, be it combining work with fatherhood, coping with downsizing or ageing well. The question of maintaining male identity and self-esteem without work faces many men, be they would maintain and mai be they young unemployed, middle-aged sacked or retired and lost. But these are not people the advertisers seek, so they aren't getting a look-in at Loaded and the rest at the moment. If you are old, you will not see yourself reflected in these publications. And if your goal as a male is to be a provider, a protector, a guide, even just an organiser of fun for children, you will find little to help you amid the hedo-nistic, escapist lifestyle that is advertised as the ideal for all men.

There are signs that men's magazines are maturing. The translation of James Brown from the editorship of Loaded to the chair at GQ suggests some growing up. But perhaps we will have to wait until he is a Dad before even his latest organ fully emerges from ado-lescence. Which is a pity. Because men need more. Just as there is more to feminism than Cosmo, so there is more to rethinking men than what we are offered at the moment.

America inevitably goes over the top, but we have something to learn from a

relationships, a dominant issue in everyone's lives, which might explain why so many men enjoy reading women's magazines.

There are a hort of invest that many hort of invest that might have been investigation. shops devoted to every aspect of male development. We're lagging behind have been innovative in the early Nineties, but now seem glossily formulaic. A huge market awaits the publishing entrepreneur who has the courage to break out of the laddish laager.

A Duchess is inimitable

Being post-modern means wallowing in irony and parody, and it's hard work. The new Oasis album is an ironic tribute to the Beatles. Or is it ironic? Television spoofs of television, like the robotic newscasters in The Day Today. are so close that they obliterate the real thing. In Private Eye, satirical take-offs of The Spectator diary can be uncannily convincing. Now - it seemed obvious they had migrated into The Spectator itself. Everyone in this office who read it agreed that the right-wing magazine's spoof diary of the Duchess of York was a very good joke. A little obviously fake, but funny. Except that it turns out the diary is genuine. She is exactly like her caricature, only a little more so. Unless, of course, she is having a postmodern joke on the rest of us? No. Somehow we don't think so, either.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -



Students fill that gap with vital work

Sir: While we welcome the Government's announcement that 19,000 deferred-entry students will be exempt from fees (report, 14 August), the problem for the community remains. Many young volunteers plan their voluntary service after 1 August.

The imposition of fees means that most young people will be iobliged to work through a gap year to fund their college place. The Government's decision will withdraw much-needed volunteer energy that "gap" students invest.

Every year many thousands of young volunteers enable people with disabilities to live independently, mentor young offenders, raise reading levels in schools and care for homeless

Public and voluntary agencies involve thousands of such young people every year through Community Service Volunteers. We know that without their commitment many vulnerable people will suffer.

Moreover, the experience and the responsibility young volunteers enjoy helps them make more informed choices; and they become better citizens.

We fervently hope the Government will find a way to ensure that young volunteers can contribute to meeting the needs of the community in future years. CHRIS DAVIÉS Director of Social Services, Somerset County Council ELIZABETH CROWTHER Director of Social Services,

Corporation of London JAN FISHER Assistant Chief Probation Officer, South Glamorgan Probation Service TONY LEVER Director, Bradford Care Consortium

VERONA NELMES Chair of Social Services, Monmouth NICOLASSTACEY Chair, Thames Housing Association

Sir: "The last thing Third World countries want is skill-less young people playing the volunteer dilettante for three months." (leading article, 13 August). What impertinence!

Since 1984 we have been sending three to five "skill-less" gap-year volunteers to teach for a whole academic year in the middle school in our link community of Gunjur in The Gambia. They live with Muslim African families in a community with no electricity, no access to clean water, no public sanitation system. They learn Mandinka, the local language, learn to eat with their right hands and mark written work by

candlelight.

I would make two points. First, they are welcomed by the Gambian Ministry of Education, which recognises that they have a real contribution to make and are not displacing Gambian teachers. Many of them discover skills they did not know they possessed. The beadmaster assures us that in the national league tables of examinations Gunjur school has improved as a result of the contribution these young people

 $\chi \to \underline{\omega} \underline{\omega} \mapsto \underline{\sigma}^{\underline{\omega}}.$

Second, the experience changes their lives. Of the 56 volunteers who have taken advantage of this scheme, eight are back in Africa, having graduated and developed their skills, working for voluntary organisations. For example one woman has been working for three years in the slums of Cape Town

helping marginalised HIV-positive women to develop incomegenerating projects. Many others are in the "caring professions" in

this country.
It would be a tragedy if these young people felt they were not able to take a gap year – a tragedy for them, a tragedy for the community of Gunjur and a tragedy for this country, which desperately needs young people who have a global view of the world and are committed to serve those who are less fortunate than themselves. DI NICK MAURICE

Director The Marlborough Brandt Group Mariborough, Wiltshire

Sir: Your faint praise (leading article, 13 August) for "worthy" enterprises such as Community Service Volunteers is wrong to suggest that CSV recruits only from "among students who can afford to do voluntary work". All CSVs are provided with food. accommodation, travel and £23.50

per week allowance.
The 4,000-plus volunteers are a cross-section of their generation in terms of educational attainment, ethnic origin and gender and no one is rejected. Their help is urgently needed. FLISABETH HOODLESS Executive Director

Sir: The Government's small change of heart on tuition fees for gap-year students did not, contrary to your front page headline, signal

London N1

"victory". The Government's plans remain essentially unchanged. It still

intends to abolish the student grant and introduce tuition fees. This could mean debts of £15,000 to £20,000 for a three-year degree.

This was not a U-turn by the Government but more of a slight blip in its drive to extinguish free university education. It is good that 20,000 students will be spared these debts, but what about the other 60,000 of this year's A-level graduates and the countless thousands of generations to come

who will be deterred from entering higher education if the Government is not forced to make a real U-turn? CATH FLETCHER

Campaign for Free Education Newcastle upon Tyne

Laws the drug barons love

Sir: It is indeed sad that the Government should show total lack of nerve over the call by one of its own MPs for a Royal Commission on drugs ("Calls grow for national debate on drugs", 11 August). It will never have a more comfortable majority to cushion itself against the uniformed prejudices of Middle England.

I was a drug education officer in the 1970s and nothing has changed since then except the initials of the drugs. Governments still feel the need to display "tough" postures and talk about "wars on drugs" rather than engage in informed and productive debate. The war against drugs was lost long ago. Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

The enemy has long been within our gates, encouraged and attracted by the fat profits that the illegality of drug use provides. The well-known effects of Probibition on the US in the 1920s say

everything that needs to be said.

In the 1970s we, as drug educators, were saying that the most dangerous thing about illegal drugs was their illegality. It creates a climate of excitement and daring around drug use that attracts young people experimenting with life. Illegality makes criminals of otherwise law-abiding young people, driving them into common cause with the drug suppliers. Having developed a problem, illegality discourages people from seeking help and treatment at an early stage and leads them into criminal activity to pay the high prices that illegality promotes.

Treatment programmes often suffer from the need to reinforce the "tough" stance of their supporting governments, so that beroin maintenance schemes are discontinued in favour of methadone, a worse drug but with a "cleaner" image. Those who have most

enthusiasm for keeping drug use illegal and are most against informed debate are the drug barons themselves. The day we begin treating drug use and abuse as a social problem to be. addressed rather than as a criminal activity to be punished is the day their profits tumble and their business withers. PAUL EDWARDS Exeter

Families who suffer in silence

Sir: The Government's decision to review whether more can be done to tackle domestic violence is very welcome (report, 12 August).

We are aware of the lasting effects domestic violence has an women and children. Research shows that in nine out of 10 cases of domestic violence in families, the children are in the same room. or in the next room, when the violence takes place. Children have told us of attempting to protect their mother, or of being

attacked themselves. However, as you say, many incidents go unreported. Awareness of the extent of the problem will be a welcome first

But awareness alone is not the answer. Women, and research shows it is usually women. experiencing domestic violence need to be able to seek help for themselves and their children without feeling that they will be blamed. We have found that women often delay seeking help because they fear that they will lose their children and that professionals do not always

understand that fear. There is a lack of information and guidance for professionals, whether they be teachers, social workers or staff at playgroups, on dealing with disclosures of domestic violence. That lack prompted us to publish a set of practice guidelines earlier this

done to make sure that fewer women and children have to suffer in silence. CAROLINE ABRAHAMS Head of Public Policy

year. But much more needs to be

NCH Action For Children London N5

Image problem Sir: It goes without saying that everything Peter Mandelson does is carefully weighed in terms of public

reaction and press effect. He used his interview with Donald Macintyre (14 August) to defend himself against accusations of being Mandelson the Manipulator and to present the "I'm just beavening away for the good of the

nation" image.
This was bound to happen at some point. What's surprising is that he has had to do this after such a short time into Tony Blair's hoped-for two terms. DAVID MUNGALL Glasgow

Political animals Sir: If the future of British politics

is in the hands of a small coterie who are career politicians ("Blair's babes nudge for places at the top table, 14 August) then let us hope that the rules of inbreeding prevail.

What experience will this group bring to government in the future? Time to change the rules and ensure that we have government by those who have a direct experience of life before they enter politics. JONATHAN YOUENS

Chance to curb the arms bazaar

Sir: Jack Lang's call for the French government to follow Robin Cook's lead on an ethical approach to arms exports is significant ("French take up Cook's arms challenge", 13 August). The key to responsible control of the arms trade lies in international cooperation to defeat the argument 'Îf we don't sell, someone else

A European code of conduct on weapons sales is coming closer to reality. France and Britain have long been the obstacles to such a move but the change of government on both sides of the Channel signals an historic

opportunity. The forthcoming British ency of the EU (Janu June 1998) provides the perfect time to take an initiative to establish a code that would help to prevent arms exports to countries that abuse human rights, regions of instability, military dictators and external aggressors. With the US Congress currently discussing similar legislation, there is a chance to restrain 80 per cent of the global arms bazaar. It should not be PAUL EAVIS

Executive Director Saferworld London WC1

Battles of the grouse moor

Sir: Your article on the start of the grouse-shooting season ("A lovely morning, but not for everyone", 12 August) failed to mention the importance of grouse shooting for heather moorland and the wildlife

that is supports.

The uplands and heather moorland in particular provide one of the best-managed wildlife habitats, when managed for shooting. Such moors have more diverse flora and fauna than those that are unmanaged, which are often overgrazed or become afforested. In Wales 28 out of 34 major grouse moors have been lost

to forestry in the last decade. Heather moorland supplies 33 bird species, while a typical bracken moor provides sustenance and shelter for only 15. Birds supported on heather moorland include merlin, golden plover and curlews. Populations of golden plover have been seen to increase directly in proportion to the standard of grouse management. LESLEY FERGUSON

Head of Media Relations The British Association for Shooting and Conservation Wrexham, Clwyd

Sir: Your report on the alleged incidents on the Durham grouse moors ("Saboteur violence wrecks grouse-shooting party", 13 August) seems to be drawn entirely from Durham police and British Field Sports Society press releases. There was another party involved in the incident, the hunt saboteurs.

No saboteurs were wearing "ski masks" - the temperatures on the moor were in the eighties and bikini tops, T-shirts and shorts were the order of the day (although not for the police). As for people carrying "staves", this implies a stick the size of a fence post, and that was most certainly not the case. One disabled saboteur was carrying a walking stick. PAUL GAMMON Hunt Saboteurs Association Brighton, East Sussex

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Chislehurst, Kent

Aggressive marketing and a 'can do' attitude have transformed the derided home of 'Crossroads' into a thriving, modern city with a global perspective, says Michael Streeter

ane Austen started it. It was her character, the snobby Mrs Elton, who uttered a view of Britain's least-loved city which has stuck as firmly as grime to an Industrial Revolution chimney stack. "One has no great hopes from Birming-ham," she declares grandly in Emma. "I always say there is something direful in the

The contemporary, "sophisticated" metropolitan view is hardly any different. Negative associations with the city are endlessly trotted out, wherever two or more Londoners are gathered together: Crossroads, Spaghetti Junction and the unsightly Bull Ring.

Last week you could almost touch the scornful glee with which some in the national media greeted the announcement that the Midlands city is to play host next year to the Eurovision Song Contest. The continent's longest-standing television joke meets Britain's ingham businessman to comment: "We know it's irresistible to some parts of the media, the jokey references about Birmingham and the Eurovision Song Contest. But it's an event we worked very hard to get and we're very proud to have got it."

That remark sums up much about the Brummie attitude to life, work and their place in Britain. For while the city may be a prophet of enlightened marketing without honour in its

Ambulance Service



Could this be Birmingham?

own land, to much of the outside world Birmingham is a the city's key entrepreneurs and politicians, the chance to display its wares to a European television audience of around 300 million is too good to miss. And as an added incentive, the event will pump around £4m into the regional economy. However, Eurovision is just

a small part of the story. Barry Cleverdon, chief executive of the NEC Group which will stage the event next May, describes it as the "icing on the most-ridiculed city. The coverage moved one senior Birm-events the city will host next year. These include the G8 Summit, the British International Motor Show and the Lions Club International Convention - billed as the biggest convention in the world. It already stages Cruft's Dog Show every year and is now attracting the prestigious Confederation of British Industry conference, which normally switches venues, each year.

The National Indoor Arena.







And not a road in sight: main photograph, the refurbished Worcester and Birmingham canal. Above, from left, typical offerings from the NEC: Cruft's Dog Show, 'Gladiators' and ITV's monarchy debate Main photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

broadcast, already stages the sauce of the city. It boasts television show *Gladiators* - "more canals than Venice", has and earlier this year it hosted a live television debate on the future of the monarchy. Rather like the city itself, the programme was lambasted by the critics for its vulgarity but proved popular with the TV viewing public who tuned in in their millions to watch and take part in a vote.

Such events are just one sign from where Eurovision will be of what some call the renais-

"more canals than Venice", has a new and much-admired Symphony Hall, plans to redevelop large sections of the much-derided 1960s centre in the next five years, and comes top of a list of "desirable locations" for businesses. The city leads the way in Britain in business tourism - income from conferences and their spin-off opportunities for local hotels.

BMW and Jaguar in its traditional manufacturing base. Suddenly, Birmingham is the place to be. At least for those from abroad who probably know more about Birmingham, Alabama than Britain's second city, and who approach the

restaurants and leisure - and

has won new investment from

place with an unbiased mind. Barry Cleverdon, an adopted Brummie who was born in the East End of London, admits it is far easier to "sell" Birmingham to foreign business people than to fellow Britons. "They don't have any preconceptions and are generally impressed by what they find."

Despite lingering consumer resistance in this country, Mr Cleverdon enthuses about what he calls the new spirit abroad in the region, "There is a real buzz about the place, things are happening. I've been here for 21 years and it really gets in the blood."

he quiet re-emergence of Birmingham should come as no surprise to historians. According to Philip Calcutt, a native Brummie and marketing director of the Birmingham Marketing Partnership, which straddles the public and private sectors and co-ordinates the promotion of the city, Birmingham has "re-invented" itself several times before.

Although warranting a mention in the Domesday Book, it was at the time scarcely more than a hamlet. It moved through the Middle Ages as a craftsman's centre and later achieved modest prominence as a centre for armaments swords then guns - in the 17th and 18th centuries. It was only late in the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th that Birmingham became widely known nationally as one of the main forces of the Industrial Revohution: James Watt, the Scottish engineer who invented the steam engine, worked in the

city.

The second great era came later in the 19th century when under Joe Chamberlain, Birmingham, by now firmly established as a manufacturing centre for country and Empire, also became a model for urban planning and municipal governance. The city survived well enough on its manufacturing base, later moving into the motor trade, until modern times - then the wheels fell off the city's prosperity in the early

Mr Calcutt recalls the shock to the collective system that this reversal caused. "You have to remember that until the 1970s there was in effect full employment in the city. You could leave a job one day and get a new one the next," he says. Along with economic trouthe butt of humour and ridicule. The cultural nadir - in a city where Simon Rattle and his City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra were for many a lone beacon - was reached with Crossroads. This now defunct soap opera's quivering sets, smaller-than-life characters and wooden acting convulsed a nation into unintentional laugh-

in their cultural role in Britain,

It got worse. The name of the most famous character, Benny, became a slang word for a stupid person, one reportedly used until recently by British troops to describe the locals in the Falkland Islands. (According to army legend, when the soldiers were ordered not to use the derogatory term, they rechristened the Falklanders "stills" - as in "still Bennies".)

The horrors of the city centre and the concrete hell of Spaghetti Junction simply added to the image of dreariness in the nation's mind. But above all was the accent. This nasal sound, much mimicked, emerged in a recent survey as the accent least likely to impress a prospective employer. In one industrial tribunal, an employee claimed she was sacked simply because of her local vowel sounds. Although the BBC has made efforts to recruit more Brummie accents into mainstream broadcasting, they are still rarely heard; and when they are, the impression is not wholly favourable. Brummie character Jack Wooley, the hotel owner in The Archers, is depicted as an amiable but

bumbling man. Yet this constant, if gentle, barracking seems to have acted

rather than cousing lastif resentment. "What's the pot in being chippy about it?" as Philip Calcutt. "There is annot ance, but the best way to g back at them is not to whin

but to get out and show them.

This combination of blood: mindedness and memoria scarred by recession became essential ingredients in the city new success. In the face of much criticism - it was lon referred to as a white elephan - the city council funded the National Exhibition Centre much later came the city centre International Convention

Centre and the Symphony Hall The NEC Group, with it! tally of visitors, brings an esti-mated £438m of business to the regional economy each year, a figure likely to increase by halls are added. The centre also supports around 17,000 jobs - important in a region with unemployment above the national average.

t the end of the 1980s. and with central govern-ment funding cuts undermining council attempts to revitalise the city, a collection of Birmingham's movers and shakers decided more was needed. In 1993, they formed the Birmingham Marketing Partnership, which is now held up as a model of how a city should market its affairs. This was another sign, says Mr Cal-cutt, of the city's "can do"

There is no reason in ger-graphical terms for Birmin ham to exist. It has no river, no coast and no coalfield. Its history is of a working city." He recalls the attention focused on the plights of some cities in the early 1980s - he mentions Liverpool - but says that never happened with Birminghan. "Birmingham just gets on aid does it. In the recession the reaction was not to whinge but to get out there and do it. It wis obvious that Whitehall would not be the source of a largamount of funding to regener-

ate the city." Equally, local politics, though bitter enough, have avoided the extremism that has afflicted other councils. "The city has veered between Tory and Labour, which has led to political pragmatism abou putting Birmingham first. Ther is a high degree of consens. about what is good for th

city," he says.
The city is realistic about in role alongside the capital, t which Birmingham lost the bi for the Millennium Exhibition (though the city is planning it "complementary" cele brations) but it is thinking bi about its global role. "What w are trying to become is a Euro pean city," says Mr Calcutt. "/ major city. A bit like Barcelon to Madrid, or Lyon to Paris." Barry Cleverdon, credited a

a major figure in the city's suc cess, believes Birmingham car achieve its goals as long as i stays "hungry": "We are bearing as in competition from cities such as New York and Hong Kong because we try that bit harden Because we're Birmingham wd have to try that much harderi act as a spur to Birmingham And we are happy to do that."

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Holidays? I always have a whale of a time

bles, Brummies were confirmed

for big men. I will not dwell on the impact of high humidity and no air conditioning, repeated applications of industrial strength anti-perspirant will usually mitigate the worst effects of excessive heat. No, it's the beach that I contemplate every year with the terror of anticipated

I have always loathed sunbathing in public on the sand, even when I was young and very thin. At 13. my ribs were as visible as the keys on a xylophone. You could have hung suits from my collarbone, or played a timpani concerto on my vertebrae. The only muscle that I could flex visibly was the one that I took such pains to conceal, wrestling with yards of towelling and soggy costume, like Harry Houdini's incompetent younger brother. And aware - always – of the manifest

absurdity of trying to hide what no one wanted to find. When the clothes were off, all my cerebral advantages were effectively destroyed. The world ceased to be one where civilised

and artistic virtues were applauded, even by the middle classes. Other boys were better swimmers, braver divers, or keenereyed beach batsmen. With nothing on, we were - we are - all mere animals. Which is great if you are fleet of foot, svelte of swimsuit, and dull of mind. But not if you are svelte of mind and dull of swimsuit.

It is appalling that nearly three decades later my feelings about walking nearly naked along the soft strand have not changed at all. Next week, when the giggling, fighting, struggling band of mini-Aaronovitches can be seen on the coasts of Britain, observers will be able to mark the sad, unhappy figure trudging, fully clothed in their noisy

What's my problem, now? It can hardly be my ribs. Those have not been seen for a long time. My eldest daughter is seven, she has four extant grandparents, but she has never met her father's ribs. Nevertheless, am a fine figure of a man. In fact, I am nearly a fine figure of two men. For the truth is that my diet and



David Aaronovitch

exercise scason is now out of sync with my bared-body season. In the past I have managed to ensure that the first roughly preceded the second, but this year I have failed completely. All right, says the calming Voice of Reason, if you are

so ridiculously selfconscious, are there not all kinds of little stratagems that you can affect? Such as wearing a voluminous black T-shirt, which can always be explained by the very sensible desire not to contract some virulent form of sun-induced skin cancer. Most large men have the legs of their thinner, former selves anyway. Women may put weight on around their calves and thighs, but men do not, their large tums teetering around on skinny limbs, like a whale on a stick. Cover the tum successfully, and you could be Damon Albarn. So put

on your shades and swagger. But this is a lie. And it is one that doesn't really work. In print I can fool myself and you. I can be anything, and can represent myself as anything. Today I might wish to suggest physical prowess in sports or love, tomorrow, a life spent pole-vaulting and writing metaphysical poetry. As long as I know what to say about it, I can be it. This cannot operate in the flesh. The magic must be dissipated, however large the T-shirt.

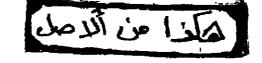
So, asks the exasperated VoR, who cares? Who's even looking? I cannot be under the impression, can I, that all those bikini-clad lovelies - who trip through the dunes, a-wobble with beauty - are waiting only for a weight loss of seven pounds before easting their

demanding satisfaction there and then, behind the beach huts? What would I be other than one more fat dad in a colony of fat dads. another beached sea-lion? The worst that could happen is that some Sunday newspaper supplement happens to send its photographer to do a picture feature on "the British by the sea", and one is immortalised on its cover. one's gut flubbering over the front of one's Speedos. So (insists the Voice) do what the others do, and go for it; exult in it. Stick that belly out as far as it will go, get it horribly sunburnt, and parade its piebald vastness in front of the whole beach. Hell, show it to everyone in the restaurant too.

Everyone else does. Well, I'm sorry, but I can't do it, Once you start admitting things to yourself, then you are on the slippery slope to senility. You stop caring about what you look like, what you wear and how you behave. And I do so hate it when men let

Miles Kington is on holiday

themselves go.



ians held

25.25

Acveigh refuse

52 rears too ste

for mis life

the commentators

Warning: beware a narrow focus on the wide screen

Alan Parker's professed anti-intellectualism makes him unsuited for the role of chairman of the British Film Institute, argues Colin McArthur

The British, it would seem, don't give a damn who runs their cultural institutions. Last week's announcement that Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, had made Alan Parker chairman-designate of the British Film Institute passed with barely a mention in the media. In any other European society the appointee to the chair of the country's foremost film cultural institution would have been subjected to the minutest scrutiny as to their suitability, and a healthy debate would have ensued about the future direction of the organisation. In Britain, silence.

Everyone accepts that Alan Parker is an extremely successful maker of popular, commercial films. That is certainly not at issue. although there might be disagreement about the aesthetic value of his films and the ideological tendency of some of them (of which more presently). What is at issue is the extent to which Parker's consistent anti-intellectual-ism, the narrowness of his aesthetic tastes, and the offence some of his films have caused to non-British peoples, are compatible with the role of BFI chairman. As a private individual, Parker is entitled to hold and express any views he wishes, within the law. But should such an individual be the spokesperson of a national cultural body?

The case against Parker is a matter of public record. From the files on him in the BFTs library, a picture emerges of a figure deeply hung up about his working-class origins and the fact that he did not attend university (and the extent to which in his own words he has been extent to which, in his own words, he has been made "to feel inferior" on that account). He lashes out at any instance of intellect being brought to bear on the cinema, and at anyone who makes films which do not fit comfortably into the local Odeon. Parker's anti-intellectualism is legendary. Martin Amis has written of his "defensive references to 'the intellectual mafia' and other imagined enemies". Meanwhile *The Face* of July, 1985, described him as follows: "He once said that he didn't want to become 'the Brian Clough of the British film world.' His mouth, however, has made him hostage to that remark. Auteur is a dirty word in his book, art-house cinema a temple of self-indulgence, semiology and structuralism a cultural plague. One of his cartoons featured the head of the BFI – pronouncing that Furthermore, we absolutely refute the allegations that we are masturbators, élitist, pseudo-intellectual or in any way out of touch with the morons who go to the Odeon'."

Parker's incapacity to engage with any cut-

often takes the form of unbridled attacks on film-makers working in other traditions. He has been known to trash the work of, for example, Wim Wenders, Theo Angelopoulos and Peter Greenaway. He once described Greenaway's work as "pretentious and shallow and obscure"

and "the biggest con in a long, long time".
With regard to the ideological tendencies of certain Alan Parker films, there is, at the very least, a problem. When black activists and historians complained that Mississippi Burning had written African Americans out of their own liberation struggle. Parker appeared to give no indication that he even appreciated the argument they were making. In the same context, the historian Robert Rosenstone, in his book Visions of the Past: the Challenge of Film to Our Idea of History. specifically singles out Mississippi Burning for consumer.

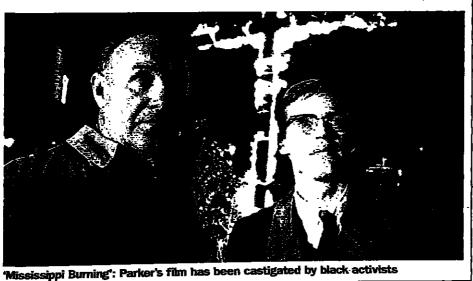
sippi Burning for censure:

By focusing on the actions of the fictional
FBI agents, the film engages in false invention' and must be judged as bad history. Indeed, by marginalising African Americans in the story of their own struggle, the film seems to reinforce the racism it ostensibly combats."

When Midnight Express was released, there was some debate about whether its depiction of the Turks was racist. Lord Coleraine raised the issue in the House of Lords, suggesting that the film, about western prisoners in a Turkish jail, might have contravened the Race Relations Act. When the producers offered the proceeds of the British première to Amnesty International, that body declined. It wished to dissociate itself from "any tendency which could be interpreted as a generalised denigration of Turkey and the Turkish people". Now, Alan Parker may be able to offer convincing refutations of these charges. My point is that the chair-designate of a public cultural body which maintains relationships with diverse groups, including some from the ethnic minorities, must be seen to be free from taint.

Contrary to what many people think, the BFI is not simply concerned with film-making. It is involved in archiving, distribution and exhibition, book and magazine publishing, education and grant-giving to film bodies throughout Eng-land and Wales. Are we then to conclude that Alan Parker's anti-intellectualism, narrow tastes and problematic record in the representation of non-British peoples are soon to influencethe entire range of BFI activities? I remain to be convinced that Parker's appointment is in the best interests of British film culture and the wider British society.

ema other than the popular, commercial one The writer is a former senior officer of the BFI



Is there anybody out there with Di?

by Suzanne Moore

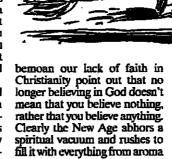
ne of the best jokes in the movie *Men in Black* is that the heroes of the film find out what's really going on from the supermarket tabloids. All the bizarre "Alien abducted my husband and returned him after 30 years" stories are, the film campily tells us, actually true. Having been on another planet myself recently where I had been involved in long, drunken argu-ments about the existence of aliens, I returned to the equally unbelievable Di-Dodi-psychic chopper story. Here at The Independent we are not preoccupied with such things, well, not officially anyway. That Diana has visited a psychic is further evidence of her mental imbalance seems to be the general consensus among my colleagues. Psychics are dismissed as feeding off ignorance, as doing harm, as frauds. Diana has finally gone mad but at least she has had the grace to do it in the midst of the silly season where her eccentricities fit neatly between crop circles and

Elvis sightings. While the tabloids go mad over this story, the serious media ignore it, concentrating on Alevels, gap years, college fees and the scrabble for university places. Diana's problem, obvi-Ously, is no A-levels and gap decades rather than years. Thus the world remains reassuringly split between the rational and the irrational, the intellectual and the emotional, sense and nonsense, between what we ought to read about and what we actually do read about.

Poor mad Diana, canoodling for the lensmen, dashing out of helicopters with Dodi, running through undergrowth, horribly mocked as "a fruit" by Andrew Morton who made a fortune out of her, surely this selfappointed expert on walking through minefields might need ance now and again. And before you sneer, you must admit that Diana has an uncanny ability to know just how and when to snatch the headlines from her ex-husband. Spooky really.

That she and Fergie should consult all sorts of peculiar people in order to find out who will love them and what their true destinies will be is hardly surprising. It goes without say-ing that they should be less sus-ceptible than they are, but their desperate search for meaning in their lives, for any little clue or sign about how they should behave, is all rather harmless. It also strikes me as no more or less irrational than Charles's pompous ramblings about destiny, which are also articulated in semi-mystical language.

Those who see all this as



therapy to shamanism. The relentless tabloid infatwhich rely on vague impulses and feelings that can only be classified as intuition; but this is considered perfectly acceptable.

Instead, then, of dismissing all this psychic talk as mere silliness, one might ask what it is allowing people to express that cannot be expressed in any The relentless tabloid infat-uation with Diana balances other way. Instead of lumping everything from UFO sight-

of supermarket belief system in which one picks n' mixes? A bit of Buddhism there, a little Occult here, a sprinkle of oldfashioned spiritualism there? Well, yes it does and a visit to any primary school will show that much of what is done in the

name of multi-culturalism does more or less the same thing.

rich woman with too much time

and not enough brains who

simply buys into whatever cult

bemence is on otter. Yet this

tions. Some of these dabblers appear quite normal, and they live among us. Are all of them as insane, as

nature, with gods of all descrip-

daft, as hysterical, as lost, as dotty as Di? Quite possibly. Yet the imprecise Gaia-inspired ramblings of an eco-warrior coexist with the Blairite Families R' Us version of Christianity. This is part of the way we live now, why pretend otherwise? The real alternative is fundamentalism of the worst sort. I find pink-slippered psychic Rita no less credible or sinister than Charles's shadowy group of advisers. As we know, bad advice is not the prerogative of

those claiming psychic powers. Diana's iconic value, as she intuitively realises, is to symbolise pure emotion. If we were honest with ourselves we should admit that we don't want her to to feel and cry and touch. Her psychic pursuits push her furfeminine world of intuition. We can if we like choose to deny the existence of this weird and wacky world and feel smugly superior that we know better. The truth is not out there, we say confidently as we locate it firmly in the realm of the logical, the coherent, the non-contradictory. But the truth is also that as we close our minds, our hearts continue to rebel.

All this psychic talk is more than mere silliness. Instead we should ask what it is allowing people to express that cannot be expressed in any other way

ings to spiritualism to Reiki

healing together, one might

begin a critical assessment of all

these different belief systems.

world are now very blurred. For

instance, acupuncture, which

was once considered beyond the pale, is now used by NHS

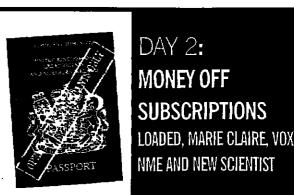
recariously between taunting her and tempting her. So it is presumed that psychics are barmy and not to be taken seriously, at the same time as The boundaries between the or therapy or quasi-spiritual experts" to give their verdicts on her new relationship. Most thing: that Di and Dodi will have a fling, maybe even marry but that it won't last - on the grounds that he is a playboy and she is too manipulative. Their general conclusion is that they are both in the relationship for the wrong reasons. Now whether this is psychic premonition or common sense, the use of psychic experts enables an entirely emotional discourse about the whole affair that by-

passes any need for fact. I predict that psychic experts will be increasingly used to commentate in this way, as they can drive a story forward by mere speculation. Indeed the media is full of people paid to speculate over our political and

practitioners. This is serious stuff because we are talking about employing an entirely different model of understanding the way that the human body works that centres on energy flows. On which side then of the rational versus irrational divide does something like acupuncture sit? It is also probably true to say

that more of us now believe in the existence of life on other planets than believe that there should be a monarchy. Is this to be taken as a sign of fin de siècle hysteria or extreme irrationality? Does the end of organised religion automatically mean the kind of spiritual frag-"dangerous hokum" and economic futures, the best of mentation that presents a kind

is to underestimate the real quest for some form of experience or faith, even, that is going on for people from all walks of life. We still have faith in faith even if we are not sure which one. Some of these dabblings are for pure entertainment, some are the result of grief, some may do more harm than good, some may be genuinely helpful. There exists a whole world out there which seeks connection with others, with aliens, with the dead, with



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A Bennett sketch without the gags

o far, on my circumnavigation of the kingdom, I am not doing too badly with the trains; I wish I

Scot Rail wouldn't have to pay that. It would be Virgin.

It is but one of the joys of the decould say the same about the pas-sengers. Not too badly, of course, is relative. Most of the trains turn up, eventually. And, given the perambulatory nature of my journey, punctu-

ality is not of the essence.

The same could not be said of the boat train service to Belfast Harbour.
It was already 25 minutes late when I joined it at Preston, having been delayed in Manchester by a broken-down engine. This was not a piece of information I obtained from "Keith information I obtained from "Keith, your Virgin West Coast senior conductor", despite his frequent pointless public address announcements, but rather from a resigned South African passenger who had sat through the hold-up. But Keith – I assume it was him, though be did not keep inserting his name into his conversation in the flesh as he had on the public address system — said, when I interrupted his conductorial progress through the carriages, that he would phone ahead to the boat-train

He did. But they let it go just before we got to Carlisle.

"It went two minutes ago," said a helpful chap on the platform. Why?

"Dungo." Mr Fawkes, the station manager, knew. "The train to Strangaer is a Scot-Rail service. You came on a Virgin one. ScotRail won't pay Railtrack the £25 a minute it costs if they stay longer in the station than they are allowed. You'll have to get the local train to

Dumfries where they'll lay on a bus."
"We do it all the time," the driver
of the coach told me. It would cost at least £200 to hire the coach for the 70-mile journey, he said. But then

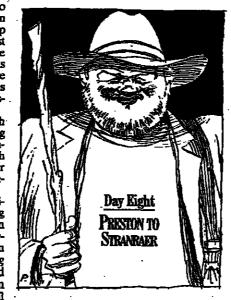
nationalised railways. Earlier the new unco-ordinated ticketing system had tried to force me to travel from Cornwall to the Midlands via London, only allowing me to follow a much quicker and more direct crosscountry route when I coughed up an extra £18. "It's two different companies, you see," said the ticketing man at Penzance, as if that constituted a

All of which makes rather galling the constant announcements - on which the various rail companies do seem to manage to find a common policy - that "Your next Station Stop is Dumfries", or wherever. It's not just the tautology that gets to me. It's the phoney personal pronoun with its bogus attempt to re-create the sense of ownership which privatisation has in reality removed. We are not passengers, remember, but customers. But then perhaps the awful British

public deserves no better. Travelling in an open-plan railway carriage reinforces what an inconsiderate bunch of individuals we have become under the influence of our fractured consumerist culture.

I don't just mean the obviously antisocial oafs who persist in smoking despite signs to the contrary. (Virgin has added to the confusion by removing all the No Smoking stickers on some trains and displaying Smoking Permitted signs in a few restricted areas instead.) I mean the women who insist on applying pungent nail varnish at the adjoining table. Or the dull-faced parents who, having brought nothing to entertain their offspring, sit oblivious as their shricking, ill-disciplined children treat the train

A JOURNEY AROUND THE WHOLE ISLAND OF GREAT **BRITAIN**



WITH PAUL VALLELY as if it were an adventure playground. makes when it is pulled by its nose. There is something peculiarly British about this ability to insist on individualism in the face of a common experience. It is as if we feel we can shrink into some carapace and render ourselves private in public. Nose-pickers do it in cars. Eaters do

Of course there are those who are insolent about inflicting the smell of their noisome cheeseburger on the rest of the carriage. And there are those who seem to regard eating as a performance art - like the North country pensioners who sat opposite me and produced items from their M&S food bag with the exaggerated gasps and flourishes of some pantomime conjurer and his ageing assistant. "A chocolate mouse loose about the hoose," the dotard boomed idiotically. And on he went. It was like an Alan Bennett sketch without the gags.

But most passengers perform an intensely privatised eating ritual, as if their Tupperware and Thermoses and sandwiches in tinfoil were sacred objects, and their eating a private Mass visible only to them and their

Not that train travellers are anything like bus passengers. Anyone who suspects that class distinctions are fading in Britain today should take a cross-country bus. They leave still from dismal depots surrounded by shabby caffs, discount shops and amusement arcades. They are places of cheap clothes, cigarette smoke and pinched faces which look up from the Daily Sport - Spice Girls naked: exclusive pix - to glance suspiciously from the plate-glass windows as the departing vehicles lurch forwards with a noise like the protest a bull

Or wait with the workmen before 7am, as I did one morning, at a busstop in a small Northern town. It came 25 minutes late. But they said nothing, apart from grunting that it was often so. There was no information. No one to complain to. Nothing to be done. It was like a symbol of the disempowerment of the unskilled classes which the modern world hides from us most of the time.

It is a construct, for there is nothing intrinsically inferior about travelling by bus. Indeed there is a romance about taking a doubledecker that lurches through the rural landscape, offering a peek behind high hedges on grassy banks topped with bursts of yellow gorse and dog roses. From the vantage point of the upper deck, with its antiquated cigarette stubber on the seat in front, you could see into places hidden from the car or train - houses, farmyards, a man asleep in a field with his roll-up tin by his head. And buses leave the main road, making detours to add as many villages as possible to their route, offering the traveller a tour of the places of no consequence which make up the fascinating fabric of ordinary life.

The coach to Stranraer made no and fast across the peninsula, past undulating Galloway fields plagued with rabbits, and along by the salt flats and glinting silvery waters of the shallow estuary where a lonely heron stood sentinel. The train, it transpired, takes a much more circuitous route, looping north almost to Glasgow. With grim satisfaction I noted we had beaten it by half an hour.

DUSINESS & CITY FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098 DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

Scottish puts Ulster Television independence at stake

Cathy Newman

Ulster Television, one of the few remaining independent ITV companies, looked increasingly vulnerable to a takeover last night after Scottish Media Group bought a 13.1 per cent stake yesterday and said it could not rule out a full bid.

Andrew Flanagan, managing director of Scottish, said last night: "No company in its right mind would say never [to a full creasing its stake to the 30 per bid], because you don't know cent limit.

what the circumstances would be in the future."

Under Takeover Panel rules, Scottish is forbidden from buying Ulster outright within three to six months. However, Scottish could increase its stake in the group to 20 per cent in a week's time, and up to 30 per cent the week after that. Mr Flanagan said that if the price was right and the stock was available, Scottish would consider in-

shared a view with Ulster that the regional identity of ITV should be preserved. He strongly disagreed with the opinion of Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada Group, that all ITV should and would be owned by one company within a decade

The closer involvement between the two companies also with Granada, Carlton and made sense, Mr Flanagan said, United, you need more weight."

Mr Flanagan said that Scot-tish, which has just bought were handled by TSMS. Grampian Television for £105m, Mr Flanagan also implied that the purchase - "wellplanned over a number of weeks", and taking Scottish's

stake in Ulster to almost 15 per cent - was in part a defensive move against the three big ITV players, Carlton Communications, Granada Group, and United News & Media. He added: "The issue in ITV is that

tions are the last three independent ITV companies, after a frenzy of consolidation in recent months. Border was, until yesterday, seen as a more likely takeover target for Scottish because of the sensitive political

situation in Northern freland. However, Mr Flanagan said yesterday: "I'm not quite sure where the politics gets into

Ulster, Border Television and what is different about us in-Channel Islands Communica-vesting in Northern Ireland." He added that Ulster was a

more appealing investment than Border because of its size and "economic performance". Mr Flanagan said Border was "not the most attractive company on the ITV scene".

Analysts said the investment by Scottish made sense, and one commented that a takeover was "inevitable". However, another said a potential merger this. Lots of companies invest other said a potential merger in Northern Ireland; I don't see was worrying from a regulatory

point of view, as Scottish was developing a "strong regional mo-nopoly".

For some reason the regulatory authorities are letting them," the analyst added. As well as having control over the Scottish and Grampian ITV franchises, the company also owns the Herald and Evening

Times in Glasgow.
Mr Flanagan dismissed talk of regulatory concerns, saying that if Scottish were to take over Ulster it would have only a 4 per

lew mobile services

cent audience share by contrast with Granada's 12 per cent since its acquisition of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television. No one company can, under current legislation, own more than 15 per cent of the audience share. Since the beginning of the year, consolidation of the ITV network has gathered speed, with United News & Media snapping up HTV; Granada

buying Yorkshire: and Scottish purchasing Grampian. Comment, page 17

Urange to accelerate £800m spending plan

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Orange, the UK's newest mobile phone network, yesterday unveiled ambitious plans to double its investment programme, spending an extra £400m through next year to improve signal coverage.

Hans Snook, group managing director, claimed the move, which would raise Orange's investment to £800m between now and early 1999, would remove the biggest barrier to ex-panding British mobile phone ownership. He said research had shown 58 per cent of customers who left mobile networks did so because of weak signal strength.

Mr Snook claimed the accelerated investment programme, bringing forward spending originally scheduled for 2000 and beyond, would leapfrog expansion plans from Vodafone, Cellnet and One 2 One: "The primary factor that raises satisfaction is not price, it's coverage. We intend to set the agenda for the wire-free future.

He also unveiled plans for new services, including a high-speed data offering to allow customers to access the Internet and mobile handsets to replace telephone extensions in offices. Orange is also working with a UK university to develop a mobile phone which can send tele-

The UK mobile phone market has become increasingly competitive over the past year as the four operators have stepped un advertising campaigns. But subscriber growth in recent months has been more modest, particularly for market leaders Vodafone and Cellnet, as customers have left the networks. UK mobile phone ownership, at 13 per cent of the population, remains well below the 25 per cent and above in Scandinavia.



Hans Snook (left) and Graham Howe, Orange finance director Photograph: Marina Imperi

the number of Orange signal stations from 2,900 to 6,000, filling in gaps between buildings in urban areas and improving coverage in the countryside.

Orange said it would raise its coverage from 95 per cent of the UK population to 98 per cent. By the end of 2001 the company said it aimed to have 10,000 base

intended to build the new sites sources. However the group is

The spending will increase more quickly to avoid potential conflicts with the Department of Trade and Industry, which has become concerned at their environmental impact. Orange is experimenting with base stations disguised as trees, though so far only two are operational.

Mr Snook said the investment, which would take Orange's total spending to more than £1.6bn, would be financed The company indicated it out of the group's existing re-

negotiating with its bankers to refinance its £1.2bn of borrowings at a lower interest rate, reflecting the company's improving financial performance. So far £870m of the facility has been drawn down, with £330m

left for future projects. The loans are about 1.5 percentage points above short-term moneymarket interest rates. Mr Snook said recent rises in interest rates would not make it harder for Orange to fund its

investment. "We're very well hedged into the future on interest rates and the fact that we may negotiate a larger borrowing facility doesn't mean it'll cost it more unless we draw on it."

Analysts yesterday welcomed the plans, but warned that the interest rate hikes made it harder to put a value on the group.

Orange shares, which rose 8.5p yesterday to 220.5p, have underperformed the stock market by 30 per cent since the

Conference calling for up to six people Roaming phones

scriber base grew by 195,000 in the first half of the year, giving it 35 per cent of the increase in the market. Last month Orange signed up its millionth cus-tomer, raising its overall market share to 13.3 per cent.

connected to office

switchboards

Link-up with high-speed

digital data service (ISDN)

Orange yesterday revealed a 41 per cent drop in losses in the first half of the year, to £74m, with turnover up 67 per cent to £427m. The group repeated its forecast that it would become profitable in 1999. per customer to £500. Its sub-

Albert **Fisher** calls off bid talks

Nige! Cope City Correspondent

Albert Fisher, the struggling food group, stunned share-holders vesterday when it announced it had terminated talks that could have led to a takeover of the company.

Though Albert Fisher had never disclosed the identity of the bidder the market had always assumed it was American banana group Chiquita. The talks, which were first revealed in June, are understood too have foundered on disagreements over the price Chiquita was willing to pay. Consequently, Albert Fisher said it had not felt able to recommend

the offer to shareholders. Albert Fisher shares slumped 4.75p to 38.75p on the news as analysis rushed to downgrade their profit forecasts and breakup values of the sprawling group run by Stephen Walls.

The company said it has completed a review of its strategy, though it will not announce the details until later this month. It is expected to sell its seafood business, which is thought to be worth around £90m. The proceeds will fund a share buy-back or special dividend worth more than £100m. Other peripheral businesses are also expected to be sold.

Analysts said the disposal of the volatile seafood business. which has been hit recently by poor cockle harvests, would make the group a more attractive break-up target. Analysts are pencilling a possible break-up value of 47p per share. Most say a takeover of the whole group is unlikely as Albert Fisher retains too many poor busi-

nesses in commodity markets. One food analyst said: "It's very disappointing. We were hoping this company's days

Northern Ireland watchdog set to refer generators to MMC

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

The Northern Ireland electricity regulator looks set to refer the three generating companies in the province to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission before the autumn, in a longrunning dispute over power

Independent research into the £300m generation market by the consultancy group London Economics was delivered to the regulator, Douglas McIIdoon, on Monday. The document, commis-

sioned by the Northern Ireland power watchdog, Ofreg, looked at the suggestions out forward by the generators which they hoped could avert an MMC

Charles Coulthard, the deputy electricity regulator, de-

lihood of a referral. However, the offers of power price cuts are not thought sufficient to satisfy Ofreg. Mr Coulthard said: "The re-

port will give us a clear indication in policy terms. Douglas will then have to decide whether to refer the generators to the MMC. If we can get a solution, Douglas may accept it." It would be the second MMC

investigation into the Northern Ireland power market, where average domestic bills of around £320 are almost 20 per cent higher than in the rest of the UK. Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) is locked in a dis-pute with Mr McIldoon following an MMC probe into

In a controversial move Mr McIldoon has rejected the

MMC's recommendations, which would cut NIE's revenues by 25 per cent, as too lenient. He has instead proposed a cut of 29 per cent, opening a debate about the powers of utility regulators.

The London Economics report calculated the potential savings from changes to the gen-eration market, which accounts for about 60 per cent of do-

Three companies took over the four power stations in the province at privatisation in They include Premier, owned

by BG, which operates the 1,000 megawatt Ballylumford power station. One suggestion was to reform the wholesale power market, by allowing large industrial customers to negotiate direct con-tracts with the generators.

users have to buy their electricity from NIE, which has inflationproof contracts with the generators lasting until 2010.

Generation charges in Northern Ireland of 4.2p a unit are much higher than in the UK. Ofreg has aimed to reduce the cost to 3.5p. while the London Economics calculations suggest the generators' own mes would cut prices by up to 3.6p, though some of the sav-

ings could be much smaller.

Mr McIldoon's predecessor had hoped to introduce a trading market for wholesale power in Northern Ireland, similar to the Electricity Pool in England and Wales, but the initiative was abandoned as too

Another idea from the generators was to invest in more efficient power plants.

US growth sedate and inflation in check

(FE) MOTOMOLA

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

US consumer prices are rising at their slowest rate for 11 years, official statistics showed vesterday. Government figures also showed the American econony was growing at a rate that likely to rise for some time to

come, analysts predicted. Shares and bonds both rose in early trading yesterday in response to the data, which prompted one economist to say: "When you wrap it all up, all is well on the American scene. Growth is sedate and in-Nation is very much in check." The consumer price index

rose 0.2 per cent in July, the Labor Department said. Rises in food, housing and transport costs marginally outpaced a decline in energy costs and the first monthly fall in the price of healthcare for almost 22 years.

The rise in consumer prices was up from June's 0.1 per cent. but it left the increase for the first seven months of the year at just 1.5 per cent, less than half the rate of growth recorded in 1996.

flotation in March 1996 at 205p

brokers ABN Amro Hoare Gov-

Orange is very credible, but the

higher interest rate environ-

ment could put the company's

boosted by figures from the

company showing a 13 per cent

surge in average annual revenue

Orange shares were also

ett. said: "The manag

valuation under pressure

Jim McCafferty, from stock-

Separately, industrial production slowed to a 0.2 per cent increase in July from June's 0.3 per cent rise. The fall followed figures earlier in the week showing producer prices falling for the seventh month in succession, the first time that had appened since 1931.

The pressure on interest rates was also eased by a large build-up in inventories, which rose in June for the sixth con-The 0.7 per cent increase was

the largest rise since April 1995 and is expected to lead to a slowing in economic activity in the second balf of the year as unsold goods are pushed through the system.

legal battle with Lloyds Financial Editor A couple who successfully sued

Couple settle

Lloyds Bank for negligence after a failed property development lost them money claimed yesterday to have won the final round of a seven-year legal pattle. Julia Verity and Richard Spindler, who made legal history when the High Court ruled against Lloyds two years ago, said yesterday they had settled out of court a counter-claim by

The couple, an acupuncturist and teacher who already owned two houses when they took out a mortgage at the height of the late 1980s property boom, were awarded £77,500 damages in September 1995. The court ruled Lloyds had been negligent in advising them to buy a third property with a view to renovating it just before the housing market crashed.

They then faced bankruptcy six months later when, in a separate case, Lloyds was successful in a counter-claim against the couple to recover £104,000. after they had failed to service the debt on the investment property. The award included the outstanding loan on the property and other business and personal loans they had taken out with Lloyds.

The settlement announced vesterday followed an appeal by the couple against the counterclaim on the basis that the original £77,500 award had been incorrectly calculated. Specifically, they said, it did not take into account a loss incurred by the couple when they sold one of their two existing properties

to help pay their losses. They said yesterday: "The overall effect of the two High Court judgments was that we owed the bank more money despite having proved that the bank's advice was negligent."

The settlement is understood to have drawn a line under the remaining debt owed by the couple to Lloyds. They said yesterday: "We are very glad and relieved that it is all over. It has been a long, arduous and perilous journey through the legal

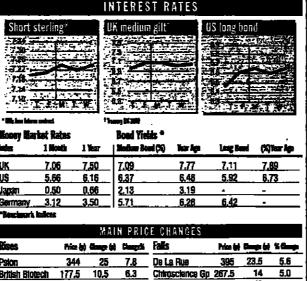
Lloyds Bank, which admitted it was constrained in what it could say about the case because of client confidentiality agreements, said: "We are very glad Mr Spindler and Mrs Verity have dropped their appeal and agreed to an out-of-court settlement. The bank has always made strenuous efforts to reach an out-of-court settlement with the couple.

Mr Spindler, 38, and Mrs Verity, 57, are now understood to be living together in Henleyon-Thames but to have decided to separate. In a joint statement, they added: "It is nine years since the negligent advice and our lives have been totally disrupted by being in such insur-

mountable debt. When the first award was made against Lloyds there was speculation it would open a floodgate of claims against banks from people who had taken a gamble on the housing market only to see their invest ments turn sour as prices fell.

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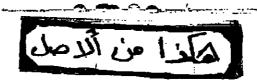
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OF THE YEAR

ice at stake

'Orange is confident its balance sheet can withstand the

pressure and points to a whole raft of reasons why - 35 per cent share of new subscribers, the

lowest chum rate, etc etc. Why, at this rate, it might even make a profit next year'

Hans Snook, the man from Orange, is praying harder than most that the Monetary Policy Committee is right about the future direction of interest rates because the land of the snag, as Orange tacitly admits, is that he has just taken out an £800m bet on them

staying roughly where they are.
It would take a long telephone call to explain all the details. Suffice it to say that because of the way Orange's future cash flows are valued, high interest rates do unpleasant things to its share price.

Since the business was floated in March last year, the shares have underperformed the market by a thumping 30 per cent partly because of the slow ratcheting up of interest rates). This is despite the company having met all its internal targets for connections, revenues and "churn rates", the mobile industry's explanation of what happens when the first bill hits the doormat and the customer unplugs his telephone.

Now, however, Orange is gambling the share price and the rest of the farm on a huge expansion in both its services and network coverage which will involve bringing forward £400m worth of investment originally scheduled for the next century. Stand by for narrow band TV, video telephony, home shopping and even virtual banking, all downloaded via your mobile. Soon they will have to have whole trains for mobile phone users, not just separate carriages.

Orange is confident its balance sheet can withstand the pressure and points to a whole raft of reasons why - a 35 per cent | halibut filleting.

The snag, as Orange tacitly admits, is that the mobile phone remains a far from perfect tool for communication which makes the idea of spending large sums to pump more information down it a doubly risky business. Users do not have to be in the Outer Hebrides to find it difficult picking up

signal.
That is why Orange is having to double its network of base sites at enormous cost just to increase coverage from 95 to 98 per cent of the country. Orange says this is a gamble worth taking since its research shows that more people are switched off mobiles by

their poor coverage than their cost.

Time will tell. Orange's low churn rate partly reflects the fact that a larger number of its customers are still awaiting the chance to churn. The pips could really begin to squeeze then.

Same old story at Albert Fisher

A lbert Fisher has been a whopping disappointment of a business and even now is being denied a swift and relatively painless death. Its mystery bidder has scarpered, frightened no doubt by some of the horrors in the portfolio such as cockle collecting and

ing for a better job more commensurate with his abilities. If true, this is a bit rich. Since he was appointed non-executive chairman in July 1992 the shares have under-performed the FT All Share by a thumping 70 per cent. In that time profits of £21.5m have been transformed into losses of £110m last

year. Margins are a pitiful 3 per cent. A takeover would have secured a spectacular hat-trick of pay-offs for Mr Walls after hitting the jackpot at Plessey and Arjo Wig-gins Appleton. It is true that Mr Walls inherited a rag bag of low-margin food businesses spread across too many geographical areas. The criticism is that after five years in the post he has only succeeded in turning it into, well. a rag bag of low-margin businesses, spread across too many geographical areas. It is none too impressive. Before Mr Walls next jumps ship for another job, he should concentrate on making a better fist of the one he's got.

Scottish is right to bang its own drum

As fast as Gerry Robinson talks ITV into consolidating into one company, Gus MacDonald is erecting barbed wire around MacDonald's marauding parties are in

So we are back to the same old story, collapsing share price, analysts reigning back forecasts, investors wondering why they bother holding the stock. Yet as this woefully underperforming business limps on there is talk that its chairman, Stephen Walk, is looking for a better job more commensurate with solidation into one homogenised channel.

Of course Scottish has its own self-interest at heart. It already owns Grampian and, although its says it is not interested in Border, the more franchises it can bolt on the more difficult it will be for one of the big three to swallow Scottish without bumping up against the ownership ceiling.

But Scottish is surely right to bang the drum for independence and diversity in the face of the rapid annexation of the industry by Granada, Carlton and United News and Media. There is scant evidence that programming

would get any better, or appeal more widely to advertisers and overseas markets if 15 franchises were reduced to one. The Scottish experience is that the further

away viewers get from the metropolitan influences of London the less they watch a single national channel such as BBC, pre-ferring instead to tune into local ITV. Scottish and Ulster also get a higher percentage of revenues from local as opposed to national advertising because advertisers, like viewers, prefer local programming.

This will not deter Granada's Mr Robinson from talking his book. But as long as Mr

Squeezing Orange until the pips squeak action, it reminds everyone that another and better alternative exists.

Glad to see the back of Julia and Richard

Tust as the housing market threatens to overheat again, a blast from the past to bring everyone back to earth. Remember Julia Verity and Richard Spindler, the odd couple who took out a mortgage with Lloyds thinking the housing market was a one-way bet and then sued when, surprise, surprise, it turned turtle and left them in a sea of neg-

arive equity? Well, they are back with the thrilling news that their seven-year legal battle with the bank is over with both sides having settled for a draw. Not quite a draw actually since Lloyds is almost certainly out of pocket because its counter claim was bigger than the award against it. "We have gained inner strengths and a resolve and determination that we could not have imagined we had in us." trills their press release.

Bully for them. For the rest of us the banks and building societies continue to value properties very conservatively for mortgage purposes, making it difficult for first-time buyers to join the market.

In part this is due to their experience with the likes of Julia and Richard. Lloyds is surely not the only one to be glad to see the back of them.

Sorrell refuses to rule out bid by WPP for CIA

Cathy Newman

Speculation intensified yester-day that WPP, the world's largest advertising and marketing group, could mount a bid for CLA, the media buying agency, after Martin Sorrell, WPP's chief executive, refused

to rule out such a move. WPP bought a 13 per cent stake in the group in June, although it is prevented from

launching a bid within a year. City analysts said CIA was looking vulnerable, but added that a hostile takeover was out of the question as the agency's directors and employees owned almost 40 per cent of the shares.

Mr Sorrell also appeared to he is believed to have considered earlier this year.

sum of the group's parts greater than the individual businesses,"

the top end of analysts' expec- nate its operations more effec- year.

the strength of sterling sent shares tumbling 7p to 266.5p in morning trading, although the stock recovered to close at

270p.
The share price fall could threaten Mr Sorrell's pay-out under a controversial incentive scheme. He stands to gain shares worth £3m if the stock remains over the 265p "trigger",

reached last week, for 60 days. Under the five-year scheme, Mr Sorrell could earn a total of £28m, including annual salary, bonuses and pension payments, if the share price reaches and maintains each target for 60

Unveiling a 15 per cent intax to £78.3m, Mr Sorrell ad-"We are seeking to make the a good performance, but said he company said. was never happy and there was always more to achieve.

WPP's interims came in at group still needed to co-ordi- back was "highly possible" next

tations. However, worries over tively across the globe. "We have tremendous knowledge assets within the group that we are still failing to harness sufficiently,'

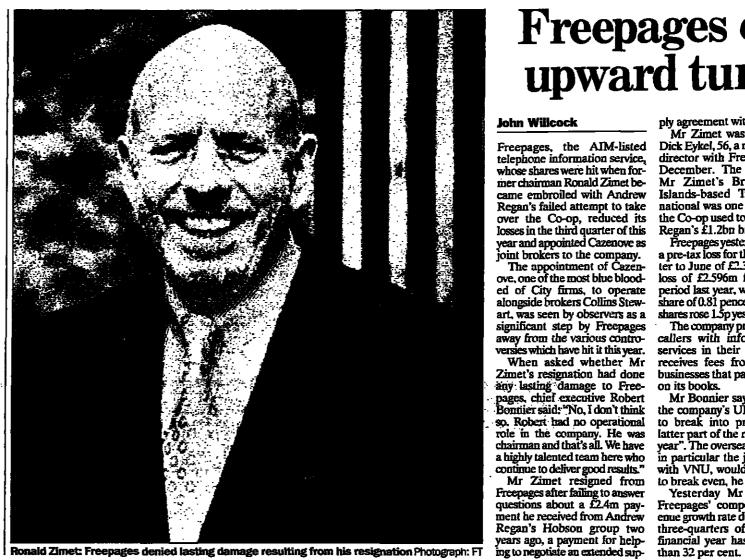
> Mr Sorrell added that further co-operation was needed within the company's media buying and research divisions.

> WPP's advertising agencies, J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather, were looking at merging their media buying and planning departments, he

Further small acquisitions remain likely and the announcement of a market research joint venture in China is expected imminently. Emerging markets such as

erica were the most likely areas mitted the company had put in for future expansion, the WPP has bought back £22m

worth of shares this year and Mr Mr Sorrell warned that the Sorrell said that a similar buy-



Freepages on upward turn

John Willcock

Freepages, the AIM-listed telephone information service, whose shares were hit when former chairman Ronald Zimet became embroiled with Andrew Regan's failed attempt to take over the Co-op, reduced its losses in the third quarter of this year and appointed Cazenove as joint brokers to the company.

The appointment of Cazenove, one of the most blue blooded of City firms, to operate alongside brokers Collins Stewart, was seen by observers as a significant step by Freepages away from the various controversies which have hit it this year.

When asked whether Mr Zimet's resignation had done any lasting damage to Free-pages, chief executive Robert Bonnier said: "No, I don't think so. Robert had no operational role in the company. He was chairman and that's all. We have continue to deliver good results." Mr Zimet resigned from Freepages after failing to answer questions about a £2.4m payment he received from Andrew Regan's Hobson group two three-quarters of its 1996/97 years ago, a payment for help- financial year has been more

ply agreement with the Co-op-Mr Zimet was replaced by Dick Eykel, 56, a non-executive director with Freepages since December. The payment to Mr Zimet's British Virgin Islands-based Trellis International was one of the issues the Co-op used to discredit Mr Regan's £1.2bn bid.

Freepages yesterday reported a pre-tax loss for the third quarter to June of £2.38m against a loss of £2.596m for the same period last year, with a loss per share of 0.81 pence (0.49p). The shares rose 1.5p yesterday to 38p.

The company provides phone callers with information on services in their locality, and receives fees from the local businesses that pay to be listed

Mr Bonnier says he expects the company's UK operations to break into profit "in the latter part of the next financial year". The overseas businesses, with VNU, would take longer to break even, he added.

Yesterday Mr Eykel said Freepages' compounded revenue growth rate during the first

Maid seeks role in digital TV revolution

Cathy Newman

Maid, the electronic information group, is aiming for a slice of the action in the digital television revolution by talking to key broadcasters about providing them with its software which is designed to sort and manage information.

Couple settle
legal battle
with Llord The company is understood to have been in touch with the big players in the digital television industry, including British Interactive Broadcasting, the interactive television company

sort and personalise information system that files and organises cations Network. material online.

BIB, formed earlier this year, cluding home shopping, bank-ing and leisure activities.

Dan Wagner, the company's founder and chief executive, announced results for the six months to the end of June owned by BSkyB, BT. Mat- roughly in line with expectasushita and Midland Bank. tions. Maid reported a pre-tax Maid hopes broadcasters will profit of £2m against a loss of ing alliances with big players

nology to enable consumers to er, the figures were flattered by the sale of a hotel Internet in an interactive environment. business to the US Internet ac-InfoSort is an automated search cess provider, 4th Communi-

Excluding exceptional credits, Maid made a pre-tax loss of will allow viewers to access and use a variety of services intrack to make a genuine profit for the full year. "The trend con-

tinues in the right direction to-wards profitability," he added. Mr Wagner, who has an 18 per cent stake in the company, added that Maid would continue with its strategy of form-

use its InfoSort search tech- £3.9m the year before. Howev- such as Microsoft and CompuServe to "dominate the market for retrieval of electronic business".

A product developed by Maid for CompuServe in the US, which gives the business community stock prices and company profiles, would be launched in the UK later this year, the company said. More details of a project with IBM are also due to be announced in the

next few months. Shares in Maid fell 5.5p to close at 209.5p, in part as a response to analysts' concerns that the churn rate - when customers fail to renew subscrip-

tions - had gone up. One analyst said that while joint ventures were picking up, the core busi-

ness was losing momentum. Maid announced that it had acquired a 70 per cent stake in Muscat, a company which owns information retrieval technology, for £5.6m.

Muscat, based in Cambridge, will enable Maid's InfoSort technology to be installed on personal computers, and will enhance searching capabilities for a variety of Maid products. Muscat's clients include Virgin.Net, Cascade Systems, the BBC and Reuters.

Independent advisers' network fined £100,000 over pension sales

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial regulator, yesterday underlined its aim of speeding up the payment of compensation to victims of the pensions mis-selling scandal by announcing a fine of £100,000 against M&E, a network of independent advisers, over its failures to act more swiftly.

M&E was also ordered to pay a further £25,000 in costs. The fine, first revealed in The Independent last month, is the

largest to be imposed so far, at the scale of the penalty. although a larger one against DBS, another network, is ex-

pected to be announced soon. The PIA said the fine was imposed after a visit by its monitoring team to the firm's Leeds office last year showed M&E had delayed contacting clients who were potentially mis-sold a pension. This, the regulator said, was a "serious failure".

Barry Kayes, chairman of M&E Network, which represents 646 advisers working for some 325 firms throughout the UK, said he was "disappointed"

It had been imposed not because of any serious mis-selling by his group's members but through the refusal of the company's indemnity insurers to

those eligible for a review. The firm had identified 368 mis-selling review cases and completed assessments on 309, of which only two required

compensation. M&E's penalty follows a crackdown by regulators and the Government on firms involved in the mis-selling scandal.

John Castie: A rare outsider at Taylor Woodrow

A believer in permanent evolution, not revolution Taylor Woodrow's chief executive says getting out of construction The Trap: to continue to do the same

thing and expect a different outcome. This little homily, the sort one might expect from a set of management consultants, sits on John Castle's mantelpiece at the elegant Mayfair offices of Bylor Woodrow. It is not a motto, Mr Castle insists, but three months into his new role as chief executive of the construction to property group, it is clearly a trap he hopes to avoid.

He certainly has a hard act to fol-low. Colin Parsons, Taylor Woodrow's executive chairman, has built up a formidable reputation during his tenure. knocking into shape a group which was in crisis when he arrived from running its Canadian operations in 1992. In five years, Mr Parsons has turned a £94m loss into profits last year of £67m and has overseen a share price which has more than doubled. It is an impressive turnaround in an industry which has been under the cosh. Even so, given that the group is still making meagre net returns - less than 6 per cent on sales of £1.2bn last year - there is clearly more for Mr Castle to go at.

His strategy, illustrated by some deceptively simple management school rather than permanent revolution. There is going to be no reinvention of Taylor Woodrow in the way Tarmac and Wimpey reshaped themselves by swapping house-building assets for quarries. Although some would characterise Taylor Woodrow as the conglomerate of would have to be done over a very long well with a trading group such as Tay-

the sector, spanning construction, house-building, property and an equipment sales operation, Mr Castle says he has inherited a strong platform in four fairly stable businesses: "There is nothing in any of our sectors where we

say, 'God, this is so awful we must close

This cautious approach is understandable, given that Mr Castle is a rare outsider in a company which normally recruits its bosses from within. Indeed, three years at the head of Marley in the early 1990s is the nearest he has been to the building industry, but that was tiles and plastic pipes, rather than bricks and mortar. Otherwise Mr

Castle's has been an eclectic career,

taking in a period in a technology-

transfer-come-venture-capital business. along with Textron of the US and BP. So he arrives without the sentimental attachment to construction that many in the industry appear to display. But even construction, the sick man of Britain's industrial sector, remains diagrams, is permanent evolution, sacrosanct for Mr Castle. Despite years of massive losses or minimal profits, he has quickly arrived at the ride the troughs of the industry withconclusion that to get out of construction would be to destroy Taylor Woodrow. "It would be a revolutionary change. If we were to think about it, it does not appear to fit particularly

period of time. I don't see why we lor Woodrow. The City measures propshouldn't be able to manage con-struction just like any other business." He says it must generate value and

would destroy the conglomerate, writes Magnus Grimond

it must not fall foul of the Rolls-Royce syndrome - "the view that we are going to build the best aero engine, even if the company goes bust". But to many outsiders, this will look like a platitude to cover the very trap into which the whole industry has fallen, with managements nearly everywhere still wedded to a barely profitable business which is crying out for rationalisation and consolidation.

Under the Castle regime, construction will be stripped down and rebuilt around its "core body of talent" to forge it into a single operation, bringing together the disparate groupings which have grown up over the years. Over time, the reliance on the business will be diluted, so that in five to 10 years Taylor Woodrow will be a housing and property group that dabbles in construction, rather than the other way round, he says. The hope is that in this state, Taylor Woodrow will be able to out having to resort to marginal business to fill the gaps, as in the past

Property is another business which

erty companies by their assets and that is difficult when they are mixed in with operations judged on earnings. The group has been running down the investment side of the operation, which tends to be asset based, in favour of the development side, where short-term profit and loss is more important. This evolution will be continued by Mr Castle, who believes property will con-tinue to underpin the group's balance sheet, thereby giving hefty financial backing to bids for big construction pro-

jects and contracts under the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI). The PFI is something the construction industry will have to live with, he reckons, and he is encouraged by Labour's enthusiastic adoption of the Tory idea. "I've been very impressed with what they have done. They have cracked in on it good and hard and picked up on issues which were

worrying the industry." Elsewhere, Mr Castle faces fewer problems. The house-building side is riding an upswing in two of its markets, in the UK and California, even if Australia remains in the doldrums, and Greenham Trading, a supplier of everything from hard hats to lavatory

housing market buoyancy is anything other than a temporary phenomenon and that, apart from sales to the over 60s, this is a market lacking fundamental growth prospects. What he does believe is that there is no reason Taylor Woodrow's housing arm cannot be run with the same focus on shareholder value as a specialist house-builder.

The "tidying up" phase at Taylor Woodrow will be complete within a year, Mr Castle believes, with another year to see it all shake down. But he recognises that rationalisation will extend beyond the boundaries of the group.

To illustrate his point that there are too many companies operating in the construction industry, he points to the fact that Taylor Woodrow, one of the largest, has a mere 2 per cent market share. The process of consolidation has begun, he says, but in the future it is more likely to come through changes in the way construction is managed and operated, rather than through reductions in the amount of assets deployed. Indeed, once some focus has been put back into Taylor Woodrow's construction operation, it is very likely that he will be seeking to take part in the consolidation process himself through

acquisitions. But while the City remains sceptical about construction, those sunlit uplands look some way off. Mr Castle may have to deploy his skills paper, chugs along nicely. Certainly he to their utmost to negotiate the traps has no illusions that the current that lie ahead

F&C sidesteps exchange pains

Colonial Investment Trust rather overshadowed its interim results yesterday. That was a shame because after a dismai showing last year, F&C looks back

Net assets per share in the six months to June rose by 16 per cent to £2.1bn, or 195.4p a share, against an 8.5 per cent rise in the FTSE 100 index. A healthy exposure to the buoyant US market helped even if, at home, F&C's contrarian, value-based investment strategy meant it was underweight in the financials and pharmaceuticals that drove the Footsie.

A reflection of that strong asset growth was a 14 per cent increase in the half-time dividend to 0.8p and a final payout of at least 1.65p. A total of 2.5p is promised, an 8 per cent rise

over last year.

Apart from poor stock selection in the UK, the main problem last year was F&C's exposure to the strength of sterling, common to internationally diversified investment trusts. This time. taking out loans in European currencies allowed F&C to enjoy rising stock markets without the pain of exchange rate falls. The policy netted £9m.

Looking forward, F&C's new manager, Jeremy Tigue, refuses to be pushed off course by last year's poor performance and promises to continue the strategy that has served investors so well over the years.

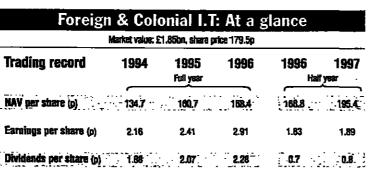
The emphasis will be on maintaining a position in the strong US market. That may make some investors nervous but it is probably the right approach given the seemingly virtuous circle of strong growth and low infla-tion characterising that economy. Despite indifferent performance from Japan, he is also sticking to that country's world-class exporting companies.

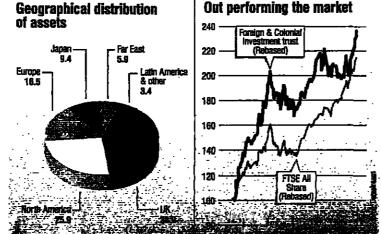
He is testing out new emerging markets such as Russia and Romania and focusing on Latin America, where he sees much better value than in the overheated tiger markets of the Far East, and on continental Europe, where stock markets certainly look much better value than the UK.

Whatever you think of F&C's strategy, it is hard to argue with its longterm performance. Between 1945 and the end of last year, £1,000 invested in Foreign & Colonial, with net income reinvested, grew to be worth almost £1m. Putting that same £1,000 in a representative portfolio of UK equities would have resulted in a fund worth £250,000, while stashing it in a building society would have given you just £18,000.

That is as strong an argument for long-term investment in an actively managed fund as it is possible to

The appointment of former Chancellor Ken Clarke as a non-excellor Ken Clarke as a non-excellor Ken Clarke as a non-excellor former Chancellor Ken Clarke as a non-excellor former Chancellor Ken Clarke as a non-excellor Ken Clarke as a non-excellor former Chancellor former Chancellor Ken Clarke as a non-excellor former Chancellor former Chancell





struck after exceptional items of £49m,

which included a hefty write-off for the

sale of Hauson Electrical to CinVen.

But though Hanson remains bullish

about prospects, the outlook seems

to re-jig the portfolio is continuing.

Talks on selling the Grove Crane busi-

ness in America are continuing though

yesterday the company said it had taken

no final decision to sell it. Also in the

US, the Cornerstone aggregates busi-

ness is going well, buoyed by rising de-

mand and increased government

spending on road construction. It is in

America that Hanson is likely to expand as there are 4,000 aggregates business

where the operations have seen a

"flattening" of demand in recent weeks.

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a good time to jump on board.

Hanson builds on **US** operations

Tanson may only be the building materials rump of the recently _demerged former conglomerate but it still has a big company ego. It reports quarterly results like a Unilever or BP and releases them at lunchtime to fit in with New York time to satisfy its large group of US investors. Quite a show for a company which is now principally involved in just bricks and aggregates.

Though the demerger happened in February there remains some tidying operations. up to do and yesterday's third-quarter results continued the process.

Hanson is changing its year-end to make. The attraction of F&C at the mo- December to fit in with the rest of the A particular concern is the Government is that you can buy that sort of sector. So the key numbers yesterday ment's road review which has already of 31 times next year, falling to 19 times potential growth at an 8 per cent dis- were the six-month figures to June seen two big road schemes scrapped.

year operating forecasts of £253m they trade on a forward rating of 11 falling to 10. About right.

Micro Focus finds safe pair of hands

Tew management, but the same recovery story, was Micro Fo-cus's line yesterday. The computer software company was at pains to dismiss the surprise replacement last month of Marcelo Gumucio, hired as chief executive to turn the company around less than 18 months ago.

Rumours have it there was a board bust-up over an acquisition Mr Gumucio favoured. While the share price fell heavily on news of that departure, the new chief, Martin Waters, met the City yesterday and came across as a safe pair of hands with oodles of experience

Happy that the management softshoe shuffle had not knocked recovery off track, shares in the group rose 222.5p to 2,162.5p. Compared to a net loss of £9.4m in the second half of last year, the company turned in profits of £3.5m for the six months to July on revenues ahead 21 per cent ahead to £41m.

Revenues for the second quarter were 24 per cent ahead of the first, traditionally the group's toughest period, with product licencing revenue up 40

The legacy of Micro Focus, which has count to the underlying value to the shares in the portfolio. If sterling weakens, as the Bank of England forecast this week, international investment trusts will have their day again. This is increase in operating profits to £121m improve operating margins at the and pre-tax profits of £48m. These were company from around 11 per cent to 15 per cent by the fourth quarter.

As a world leader in Cobol, the language of most mainframe computers, the company looks ideally placed to meet demand to solve the year 2000 mixed at best. On the plus side, work problems which require rewriting of the Cobol language. The company's prod-ucts, which allow computer lines to be rewritten on personal computers rather than on mainframes, where capacity is limited, look attractive.

If there are any questions it is whether, once the company has evened up its revenues and spending and the year 2000 has passed, customers will find an active use for Cobol.

Micro Focus insists that because it there, most of which are single quarry is such a fundamental system, Cobol has wide uses, including exploiting the But the news is less rosy in the UK Internet.

Merrill Lynch forecasts profits of £16.4m for the full year and £27.7m in 1999. The shares are on a forward PE in 1999. Fair.

Pint-'n-panatella wielder wins confidence of trust

Ken Clarke has just accepted a job that will pay him £18,000 a year for turning up to a board meeting once a month.

Okay, so the pint-'n-panatella wielding for-mer Chancellor will also be on call to Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust to offer advice on finance and economics.

Still, its not exactly selling the Big Issue out-side Waterloo Station. Our Ken, the best Prime Minister we never had, has got his first post-Number 11 job - as a non-executive director at F&C.

he's had since 1979, according to Jeremy Tigne, manager of F&C. "Robin Leigh-Pem-berton, the former Governor of the Bank of England, is on our board and he knows Ken Clarke. It was his idea to approach Ken. Our chairman, John Slater, approached him after the Tory leadership election," Mr Tigue said. How very cosy. Now to the serious question: Are F&C directors allowed to smoke during board meetings? Mr Clarke is a confirmed chain-smoker of pungent cigarillos, after all. Mr Tigue says: "None of the current directors do - although some of them smoke outside board meetings. I'll have to ask the chairman

Mr Clarke starts his new job on the 1September when he returns from his summer break, although the first board meeting isn't until 10 September. Not to worry, Mr Tigue is sanguine about the markets: "We're not expecting a crash or anything."

The first casualty of the Boeing-McDonnell Douglas merger has been Boeing's European network of public relations consultants. In all, the Seattle aircraft manufacturer is dispensing with the services of 10 PR men including, in this country, the estimable Dick Kenny.

Mr Kenny was the voice of Boeing in Britain for two and a half decades and the man every aviation hack contacted whenever jumbo fell out of the sky or a multi-billion pound order was in the offing. He does not intend to shut up shop, he tells me. Dick Kenny Associates will continue in business at Little Pinkneys, its Maidenhead HQ.

"Boeing opened a lot of doors to me over the past 26 years and some of them might just prove attractive to others," he says.

Anglian Water's John Smith has been appointed head of regulation at Railtrack. A bit of a "poacher turned gamekeeper" scenario this, as rumour has it that Mr Smith spent most of his time at Anglian complaining about Ofwat, the water regulator.

Now he will be dealing with Railtrack's two regulators, which rejoice under the Pooterish titles Office of Passenger Rail Franchise and Office of the Rail Regulator. Perhaps Mr Smith could look into a right

mess that Railtrack has got itself into. It has decided not to renew the lease for the Southall Railway Centre in west London, leaving the GWR Preservation Group nowhere to show its vintage trains. Railtrack wants to use the train sheds involved to house the Flying Scotsman and other rolling stock owned by Dr Tony Marchington, chief executive of Oxford

Molecular Group.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Kenneth Clarke: F&C isn't sure whether smoking is allowed in the boardroom

There was good news this week for the Southall railway buffs - Railtrack has given them a six-week stay of execution. But surely Mr Smith can help find them a permanent

Has Sunday Business, the newspaper founded by Tom Rubython last April that recently went belly-up, finally found a new owner in the Barciay brothers?

The owners of the European are known to be interested in acquiring newspapers. Bert Hardy, managing director of the brothers company, European Press Holdings, tells me that he has indeed given Sunday Business the once-over: "We have been sent details by the receivers and we are examining those details." Mr Hardy said yesterday.

He says he doubts he is any further forward in deciding whether to buy the paper than any of the other groups sent the details by receiver David Sapte, of City accountants Begbies.

There is one reason to doubt a sale is imminent. Last Friday Mr Sapte embarked on a three-week holiday abroad. Or is he happy negotiating by mobile from the beach?

Perhaps its all this humidity - BZW is hiring as if the heat has gone to its head. It has arpointed Chris Gate as new head of European Proprietary Trading within the global equities division. Mr Gates, 33, joins from Bankers Trust where he was head of UK Arbitrage

Barclays' investment bank has also poached three analysts, Nick Ward from NatWest Securities, Keith Wilson from Sun Alliance Investment, and Susan Scott from Credit Lyonnais Securities. Mr Ward will cover transport, Mr Watson electronics and Ms Scott oils.

John Willcock



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In Brief

Littlewoods to create 500 jobs

Littlewoods is creating 500 jobs as part of an expansion of its home shopping division in Sunderland. This was scheduled to bring the total number of employees at the Littlewoods customer service centre in Sunderland to 1,500, the company said. There has been a "huge" uptake by customers of the company's new Index Extra catalogue and it has seen a healthy increase in sales in its traditional agency catalogues.

Media Business posts record profits

Media Business Group, the media and advertising specialists, announced record profits of £1.55m in the year to the end of April, an increase of 26 per cent on a turnover of £134m. Gross billings rose by 26 per cent to £155.4m, well ahead of the 9.2 per cei overall growth in the UK advertising market. The new year had started strongly, chairman and chief executive Allan Rich said yesterday. The group also confirmed it was setting up an office in Scotland. A one-for-10 share consolidation is planned.

Capita pays £9.3m for Datapay

Capita, the management and IT consultants, yesterday paid £9.3m in cash for Datapay, IBM UK's payroll processing service, funding the purchase by placing 3.46 million shares with institutional investors at 269p each. The new business and its client base of 140 companies will quintuple the size of its pensions and payroll service to include 2.4 million employees and pensioners. Datapay made an operating profit of £775,000 on revenues of just under £7m in 1996, and the acquisition will be earnings-enhancing in the current service. The shares was 40 to 2720. in the current year. The shares rose 4p to 273p.

Glynwed buys US pipe-maker for \$23m

Glynwed International, the engineer, has bought plastic pipe-maker Industrial Plastics Technology in the US for a maximum of \$23.67m (£15m). IPT distributes industrial pipes, fittings and ancillary components throughout the eastern states of the US. It had a sales turnover of \$32.4m and adjusted pre-tax profits of \$3.44m in 1996. Earlier this week Glynwed said it would look for acquisitions worth up to £100m as part of a strategy to reshape the group.

Barr & Wallace name change approved

Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust shareholders yesterday approved a name change to Trust Motor Group and gave the company authority to buy back up to 15 per cent of the company's shares. They have passed an ordinary resolution approving the sale of the leisure division to Wallace Arnold Group Ltd, a management buy-out vehicle backed by investment capital group 3i.

Share-buying spree by Orbis directors

Four of the directors of Orbis, the security services group, and each of the group's three divisional managing directors yesterday purchased 115,543 shares. Chief executive Trevor Brentnall said over the past two years earnings per share had more than doubled and the return on investment had increased by nearly 50 per cent. "We are confident the group will continue its progress," he said.

	Compar	iy Kesuli	S	
	2 revenut	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Freepages Group (03)	4.8m (1.3m)	-2.38m (-2.60m)	-0.81p (-0.49p)	nii (-)
Jacobs Holdings (I)	29.8m (27.7m)	1.03m (1.75m)	0.8p (2p)	0.5p (0.375p)
MAID (I)	14.0m (9.58m)	2.01m (-3.28m)	0.88p (-3.68p)	때 (-)
McDonnell into Systems ()	54.4m (51.2m)	-3.9m (-9.2m)	3.82p (9.39p)	盾(-)
Media Basiness Grp (F)	134m (108m)	1.55m (1.22m)	0.42p (0.38p)	0.07p (0.06p)
Micro Focus (I)	\$37.3m (\$26.0m)	\$7.85m (-\$14.4m)	33c(-94c)	UN (-)
Orange (I)	426.9m (256.5m)	-73.5m (-125m)	- 6 p (-13p)	nii (-)
Westenlester Healthcare (F) 102m (86.1m)	11.8m (17.6m)	17p (23.5p)	6.6p (6p)
WPP Group (I)	3.44bn (3.46ba)	78.3ta (68.1m)	79 (69)	0.7p (0.558p)
(F) - Float (I) - Interim	(03) - Third quarter			

Westminster to sell off 15 nursing homes

Westminster Health Care, the UK's second-biggest nursing home group, plans to sell off up to 15 of its 105 nursing homes over the next 18 months to focus on faster-growing areas such as retirement centres and drug abuse clinics.

Speaking after the company reported a strong set of annual results yesterday, Pat Carter, chief executive, said his target for Westminster was to make around a third of its profits from non-nursing home activities by

next year. News that Westminster was broadening its activities sent the group's shares up 4 per cent to 75p. Pre-tax profits rose 14 per cent to £20m in the year to May, excluding £2.7m costs of last year's failed bid for Goldsborough and a one-off charge of £3.1m to reduce investment in the nursing home sector.

Mr Carter said that pressures in the nursing home market. which has been dogged by overcapacity and cuts in local authority budgets, were difficult, but showed signs of easing:

"Things are beginning to sta-bilise. Operators have stopped building more homes and wage costs are showing signs of easing, but this is still a mature mar-

Mr Carter said that occupancy remained under pressure, but at 89 per cent, the group's rates were already significantly higher than the sector average. The company plans to complete three new nursing homes, but does not expect to open further beds while conditions are tough.

Paul Saper of Laing & Buisson, healthcare consultants, said the moratorium on building new nursing homes, together with the £7m Westminster received from its stake in Goldsborough, would release funds to redirect to growth areas.

"Westminster is seen as one of the top management teams in the sector. It is way ahead of the game in assisted living and areas like brain injury while the others are staring at their navels and complaining how bad the nursing home sector is."

BASF plans plant with Algerian firm

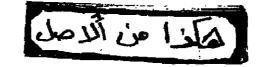
The German chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant BASF has signed a deal with Sonatrach the Algerian oil and gas company, to build a propylene plant next to its existing joint venture with Hoechst at Tarragona in Spain. But in London yesterday Mr Juergen Strube, the BASF chairman, ruled out a tie-up with Dow Chemicals, the world's leading polystyrene producer, due to anti-trust problems.

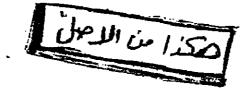
BASF has also decided against taking an equity stake in Gazorom, the Russian gas company, saying it would not en-hance the joint marketing venture between the two com-

BASF reported a 14.5 per cent rise in sales to 27.8bn Gerper cent increase in pre-tax profit is unlikely,

profits to DM2.458bn in the six months to the end of June, in line with analysts' expectations. Earnings grew more rapidly in the second quarter than the first and the group expects to increase profits and exceed sales of DM50bn for the full Profit margins in the first half

were hit by the strength of the dollar, in which most of the group's raw materials are priced, according to Mr Strube. Profit contributions from oil and gas, colorants and finishing products were sharply higher. but plastics and fibres showed lower profits. Knoll, the lossmaking pharmaceuticals divi-sion, has been hard hit by heavy research and development costs man marks (£9.5bn) and a 5.8 and an immediate return to





latella wielder dence of trust



Spotlight shifts on to the unfashionable Footsie sectors

There are signs the Footsie lag-gards are beginning to attract investment support.

This year's astonishing bluechip charge has been due to the strength of financials, accounting for around 27 per cent of the index, drugs and utilities. Many Footsie constituents, as

well as the rest of the stock market, limped lamely behind. This week the climate has changed. Some of the long neglected stocks have advanced as the more glamorous have paused for breath.

BTR, the battered and bruised conglomerate, is the shinning example of the new

Its shares rose a further 13.5p to 214p, a 24p gain since Tuesday. Once more turnover was heavy and again much of the buying originated in the US. Interim profits are due next month and, despite the gloomy trading statement in

rampant pound will quickly work its way through and chief executive Iain Strachan could offer encouraging comments

Imperial Tobacco, another underperformer, rose 7.5p to 406p and Allied Domecq, frequently engulfed in rumours of corporate activity, frothed 7p higher to 482.5p; a 28p gain this

TL the engineer, down at 456.5p last month, continued to enjoy a re-rating, gaining 5.5p to 605.5p and the P&O shipping line pushed ahead 7.5p to 637.5p.

Just to strengthen the view a new emphasis is emerging, the high-flying financials and utilities were rather subdued. And the revival among the second and third-liners continued. Engineer Glynwed International, which has had a torrid time, put on 12.5p to 247.5p with Charterhouse

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

um to the market.

Greenalls, the hotel and pubs chain riding at 605p at Christmas, rose 11p to 477p.

The indices offered further evidence under card shares were intent on catching up with their peers. As Footsie fell

below 5,000 points, off 12.3 at 4,991.3, the FTSE 250 index rose 12.9 to 4,689.9 and the and trading at a record premi-SmallCap index made further headway At one time Footsie was 28.2 higher. Manoeuvring ahead of today's Footsie options

expiry contributed to the volatility. RMC, the building materials group, remained under presat 205p, lifting its stake to 14.9 per cent. Although Scottish Media played down any bid ambitions the market believes the share buying is a prelude to eventual corporate activity. Border TV moved ahead 5p to 370.5p in anticipation of bid

Gordon on the sell tack this action. week the shares gave up a fur-Albert Fisher, the food ther 19p to 1,049p.

Zeneca was lifted 24p to 1,910.5p by Dresdner Kleinwort group, tumbled 4.75p to 38.75p (after 35.5p) as the whiff of burnt fingers followed the Benson support but Unilever tumbled 26.5p to 1,855p after failure of a signalled bidder to appear. The group said talks Schroders declared the shares nth an unknown predator had ended. In an endeavour to soften the blow Fisher is were 10 per cent over valued planning a share buy-back or Argos, the catalogue shop-ping chain with interim results special dividend and is near to

completing a number of next week, softened 8.5p to Games Workshop, the com-627.5p as Henderson Crosthwaite said sell, but DKB added 12p to Boots at 796-5p.
Ulster TV jumped 32.5p to
199p; Scottish Media, the

puter games business jumped 55p to 630p following results. Crédit Lyonnais Laing says the shares should be over 700p. Robert Walters, a recruit-

325.5p peak. Founder and chief executive Robert Walters sold 8.4 per cent of the capital for £5.8m. He still has 19.6

market report/shares

per cent. Other directors cut their holdings. The company said the sales, at 299p, were aimed at broadening the market in the shares, floated a year ago at

105p. Electronic Retailing Systems International, strong on Wednesday, eased 12.5p to 377.5p although Henderson Crosthwaite believe the shares are a strong buy. It says ERSI looks at least as attractive as its Swedish rival which has a £400m capitalisation; ERSI is valued at £80m.

Hotels, weak recently, drew strength from bullish comments from John Jarvis of Jarvis Hotels, and the Millennium & Copthorne figures on Wednesday. JH gained 8p to 157.5p; M&C 10.5p to 389p and Regal Hotels 1.5p to 46p.

Taking Stock

Struggling Rage Software, the computer games group, has slashed its shareholding in AutoNomy, an Internet text-searching developer. It raised nearly £2m and still has 883,000 shares which represent 2.9 per cent. The rest of the stake will eventually be sold. AutoNomy, an unquoted business, is 20.1 per cent-owned by English National Investment Co, where Bahamas-based tycoon Joseph Lewis is a big influence. Rage shares shaded to 4.5p; they have been 25p.

Orbis, the security services group, struggled off its year's low, gaining 3.5p to 38.5p. A confident trading statement and share-boying by chief executive Trevor Brentnall and other directors helped. But the 115,000 share acquisition was overshadowed by a 1 million sale by director Alan

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Westminster

to sell off bursing home

sure as SBC Warburg made negative noises. With Panmure group, acquired 13.1 per cent May, there are hopes the less Tilney saying buy, and ment group, climbed 8p to a Price Car YM PRESSE | Share Price Data Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by

2 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share
price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
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Bijou keeps quartet waiting

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CHRIS CORRIGAN

The Juddmonte International Stakes at York on Tuesday could well be contested by the smallest field in its history. Only six horses were declared for the race yesterday but, of those, only four are definite runners.

Although the quality of that quartet - 1996 Champion Stakes winner Bosra Sham, Derby victor Benny The Dip Irish 2,000 Guineas and Irish Derby winner Desert King and Japan and Dubai Cup victor Singspiel - such a field would be fewer than the five who went to post for the inaugural running in 1972.

Of the other two acceptors Reams Of Verse, winner of the Oaks at Epsom in June, is thought more likely to go for the Yorkshire Oaks on Wednesday, while Bijou D'Inde, remains doubtful. A decision will be made this weekend.

Bijou D'Inde is sparkling and well but is still about 20 ki-

los overweight, the colt's train-er, Mark Johnston, said yes-terday. "We'll know more when Bobby Elliott gallops him again

on Sunday." Bijou D'Inde has not run since injuring a tendon when brought down in the Dubai World Cup in April. "It's a hard decision as although running would not do him any harm, there is the down side of his potential stallion value to consid-

er," Johnston added. Betting on the International Stakes was quiet yesterday. William Hill offer: 10-11 Bosra Sham, 9-4 Singspiel, 5-1 Benny The Dip, 7-1 Desert King, 33-1

whip ban in a week.

Rival bookmakers Coral re-

25-1. Whether it is in fact mug money will soon be tested - at Newbury this afternoon, when

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Chief Monarch

(Newbury 2.40)

NB: Forest Fantasy (Haydock 8.10) the Godolphin filly makes her

Frankie Dettori in the first

debut. She is the mount of

small but beautiful is the top event at Deauville on Sunday.

Group One prize over a mile. The David Loder-trained Starborough, runner-up to Ali-Royal in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, is the sole British representative. Starborough will have to overcome a stronglooking home challenge, in-

runners are set to contest the

the Prix Jacques Le Marois. Six Guineas, will attempt to re-

chuding Dubai Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas) winner Daylami. The Prix Jacques Le Marois field: Spinning World (C Asmussen), Zamindar (O Peslier), Daylami (G Mosse), Starborough (L Dettori), Neurlly (T Jar-

net), Piperi (F Sanchez). King Of Kings, the deposed favourite for next year's 2,000

Weaver faces an eight-day ban suspension for his riding of

CATTERICK

GOING: Good to Firm (watering).

HYPERION

5.55 Summerhill Special 6.25 Slew Magic 6.55 Pigeon 7.25 Prima Silk 7.55 Intlaash 8.25 Ar-

DEAM ADVANTAGES LOW for "1, when status are store.

Left-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for the long-stream horse. Run-in 240yds.

Course is NW of town on A6136. Darbrigton station 1-ira - bus service to course. ADMISSION: "http511; Tataessalis-57; Course 52-50 (under 10s free into all enclosures). CAR PARE; Reserved

22.50 (mager res area 52, remainder Free.
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BLANKERED FIRST TIME: Oksy Baby (veored) (8.25),

17.55): Finestatetobein (visored) (8.25)

Music (vected) (7.25); Finestaletobein (visored) (8.25). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Palacegate Touch (7.55)

INNERS IN LAST SEPTEM AND SET OF SET

5.55 TATTERSALLS BOOKMAKERS AMATEUR HCAP (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m 4f

6.25 RM LTD SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6) £2,875 added 270 7f

161065 SUMMERBELL SPECIAL (36) (D) D Barker 6 11 7.

STALLS: Inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5(, when stalls far side.)

Jason Weaver is facing eight Beverley. The stewards deciddays on the sidelines after be- ed he had used his whip with ex-Princely Heir in the Phoenix ing hit yesterday with his second cessive force. Weaver was punished with a

Heinz 57 Stakes at Leopardstown last Sunday which means Weaver was in trouble after four-day ban which puts him out he will be on the sidelines for riding Fizzed to victory in the of action on 23 & 25-27 August. eight consecutive racing days Westwood Maiden Stakes at Weaver received a four-day from Tuesday.

tomorrow. The Aidan O'Brien-trained colt, who runs in the colours of

his reputation in the Listed

Flame Of Tara Tyros Stakes over

seven furlongs at the Curragh

Mrs Sue Magnier, was beaten in the Group Three Omni Racing Anglesey Stakes over seven furlongs at the Curragh last month. The impressive winner of his first two starts, both at the Curragh, King of Kings, was a 30-100 favourite when going under by a short-head to Lady Alexander. But O'Brien later reported that the bay was sick. Yesterday a spokeswoman for O'Brien's Ballydoyle stable

confirmed King of Kings on course for tomorrow's race. "King of Kings is a definite run-ner," she said. "The horse is fine. absolutely fine, and Christy Roche will ride. King Of Kings was the subject of a bet of £1,000 with Coral at 12-1 yesterday for the 1998 Guineas and is now 10-1, having been pushed out to 14-1 after his defeat. Daggers

Drawn remains 6-1 favourite.



A.40: Paul Cole's pair, Bali Par-adise and Cinema Paradise, seem sure to be prominent at the fin-ish, but must give 12lb to MARIE DORA. This filly looks well weighted now that she steps up to this distance for the first time. She ran creditably when fifth, six lengths behind Noisette, over 7f at Newmarket last month.

3.10: Peter Chapple-Hyam will be particularly keen to win an event carrying the name of his yard's sponsors. Grosvenor Casinos. The Manton trainer relies here on The Mannon trainer reass here on City Honours, who will be sharp enough for his debut. BAHR has already proved her ability, im-pressively at Doncaster, though today's surface will be a lot faster.

3.40: This is run on the round course and DECORATED HERO is well drawn. Trainer John Gosden suggests ignoring his latest run, at Newcastle, as it came too soon after his course and distance victory a month ago. Dazzle won well last time but has yet to prow she is really back to her best.

7.25 CHARLES CLINKARD FINE FOOTWEAR HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 7f

313050 KONELICKY (10) (CD) A Multiotand 5 8 9 ... P Fessoy (2) 14 \ 006022 SINS WITH THE BAND (10) (RF) B McNation 6 8 4 ... K Desley 18

133150 ROSEATE LODGE (2) (D) (BP) 5 Nettlemell 11 8 1...

100420 MISS PIGALLE (5) (D) Miss I, Persit 6 7 13 — N Kennet 0-0000 WELCOME LU (23) (CD) J I, Hams 4 7 10 — D Widg 00060 KENTUCKY DREAMS (1,180) (D) Mis A Naughton 7 7 10.

7.55 HARRISON TAMAR CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 5f

- 9 declared -BETTING: 7-2 The Huppy Fox, 9-2 intinash, 5-1 Palacegata Touck, 11-2 The Wad, 8-1 Captain Carat, River Tern, 10-1 Redunktable, 14-1 others

8.25 DURHAM HOME MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 7f 177yds

7.10 RAINHELL NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2YO 5f

242.02 Herry Date (13) D Moneto (1) ______ Darren moneto (4) 2 331152 ORBEL (SEL (2) OP P Bers 8 3 _______ Figure 4 V 006034 HAYBURNER (12) M W Exsterty 7 10 ____ R Winston (7) 3 B 04064 (8.ASS RIVER (6) P Rene 7 10 _____ D Moneto (7) 1 ____ 7 declared ______ imum weight: 7st 10th. True handloop weights: Hayburner 7st 50, Gees

rover 74 30.

BETTING: 7-4 Gipsy Moth, 3-1 Eastern Lyde, 6-1 Happy Days, 8-1 Oriel Cirl, 7-1 Hayburner, 10-1 Jackerin, 20-1 Gipss River

7.40 SWAN WITH TWO NECKS SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 1.m

- 10 decircies - 11-10 Regerent, 11-4 Bollero, 8-1 Docklands Carriage, 10-1 Chief's Spirit, 14-1 La Doyanne, Siggleni, Elder HEI, 20-1 others

8.10 KNOTTY ASH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,100 added 1m 30yds

5 0-0901 FOREST FAUTINEY (8) (D) 1 Winston 4 9 4 (Seq. J.P Reberts (8) 6 0 30053 O CHOS RIDS (8) (C) 8 Rotheel 6 9 3 ... If E Oursen (8) 9 0 0-0300 HeRISPEED (21) (9) 8 Memberts 6 9 3 ... IN E OURSEN (8) 8 8 202305 SUPERPRIDE (8) Mm M Reveley 5 9 3 ... W J O'Connor 14 8 0 000050 WINSTON (6) (0) 1 Series 4 9 1 ... J. Darrott 14 8 10 000050 WINSTON (6) (0) 1 Series 4 9 1 ... J. Darrott 15 11 001500 MR ROUGH (27) (9) D Monis 6 9 1 ... J. Darrott 15 12 500200 SPAMESH VERDICT (13) (9) D Smith 10 9 1 ... K Pation 13 13 461122 CLYPHA MILL LAD (5) (0) JM Bendly 68 13 (2ed 5 Drowte 10 14 634500 NAUSHY PISTON (USA) (6) P Sens 5 8 8 ... J. F Egen 5 B 5 000069 MMY QUEEN MERBAR (12) Ms A Ning 4 65 ... JM Fronton 11 18 000400 NORTHERN JUDGE (27) A Lames 4 7 13 ... P Doe (7) 4 B 17 335300 PRIME PARTIER (4) (0) T Exclusive 4 7 12 JR Winston (7) 2 B BETIME: 13-2 Cythin Hill Lad, 6-1 Ochoe Ros, 7-1 Forest Fancars, 8-1 Remains Green, Superpride, 10-1 Thase For A Pound, Needle Match, Spansh Verdict, May Queen Megan, 12-1 others

NEWBURY

HYPERION

GOING: Good to Firm. Penetroneser reading 2:71.

STALLS: Straight course - centre; round course - inside.

STALLS: Straight course - centre; round course - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5t to 1m on straight course.

Bled-hand track: The course is south east of town near A34. Railway station (service in lead-hand track in the course. ADMISSION: Members \$14; Taucranils from London, Paddington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members \$14; Taucranils from London. Paddington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members \$14; Taucranils significant to the constraint of the course of the

2.10 GROSVENOR CASINO BRISTOL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO filles 6f

4.10 Busy Flight (nb)

4.40 Children's Choice

NEWBURY

2.10 Shmoose 2.40 MARIE DORA (nap)

3.40 Decorated Hero

	COL	ille exbe	nerce and plenty of potential for improvement.	aelecului.	GC LIVING	-
ı	2		BONUSPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS C) & added 3YO 1m 2f			
	-	404430	norman and race and are the Orino Cartali P House 9.7	C Lowid	er (5) 2	9
	l 2	455465	BALL PARADISE (14) (C) (Al Muslim Partnership) P Cole 9 0 -		LOUIS .	7
	l 3	SERVICE	Commer Departion of the Att Standards with the Carlot St		, man 3	•
	4	04 400	COST TOURS AND A MAN OF FREE OF THEOREM & 4		70007	•
	5	2 74E	enve ne encommu PH) (Billie) (Shakir Matamineo)) (303	300 メン・エレス		w
	ă	24222	DARRY DOMAINE RIES, FIRST SIN SIN SEN SEN HIS HERICUTY & &			- 37
	١,	022551	CHECK RECOMMENCY COST DARKS N JOSEPH B STREET S 7			•
	á	0.2000	RASHDANCING (16) (N Hayes) R Harron 8.6		YNeE 8	8
		0-3000	PRINCE OF DENIAL (76) (BF) (J S Guidon) D Arbuthrol 8 3	S Whi	bearth 1.7	o
	9	042-10	BYZANTILIM (21) (R Van Gelder) Lord Huntington 8 2	W D	alamie G	0
	10	160	RAZVALININI (SZT) (K ASA PERRIT FOUR UPINALARINI O ST.			ñ
	11	01055	MARKE DORA (FR) (38) (Lord Roborough) Bailding & 2	ئمن ھوست	De (5) 1 7	-
	12	333616	SHADOOF (12) (Mis H Levy) W Mur 8 0	R Muli	en (5) 3	9
	I —		– 12 deciared –			
	867	THO: 0.4	Sand Of Employs, 11-2 Prince Of Daniel, 6-1 Party Rossa	nce, 13-2 B	ali Peradi	31

BETTING: 9-4 Song Of Freedom, 11-2 Prince of Dealay, 6-1 Party Romance, 13-2 Ball Paradise, 9-1 Alacte Dara, 10-1 Chief Meaarch, 14-1 Prentige Bay, 16-1 Byzantium, Cheena Paradise, 9-1 Alacte Dara, 10-1 Chief Meaarch, 14-1 Prentige Bay, 16-1 Byzantium, Cheena Paradise, Shedoof, 20-1 GRT Totace, 25-1 Relactacing 1996: Greenstand (USA) 38 11 L Deston 15-2 (J Gosden) drawn (6) 15 cm FORM GUIDE It is stretching a point to suggest that SONG OF FREEDOM would have won at Ascot (10f) lest time but for sumbling just before the home bend, but he was being held up towards the back when the incident occured and so had little chance of recovery. Frankle Dettori did not give up straight away, but was easy on Song Of Freedom through the final furing. What has hoppened in the meantime is that Dantesque - second to Song Of Freedom in a Pontefract maden on July 8 - has come out to win twice. Zerpour, fourth, also boosted the form when going on to give Sx Ricky a three-length beating at Newmarket. Forting tectics seem to suit Prentiers Bay, but he has 9st 7 lb to defy. John Reid has noden him on two of his latest three stants, including when wirring at York, but he sides with Cheena Paradiso, who was over a try too far (127) at Goodwood last, time. Even so, he looks a tricky-to-place coll. More appealing is his stablemate Sali Paradisse, who was over a time of the soft ground, has pro-Monarch, taken out of a race at Beverley yesterday because of the soft ground, has pro-gressed well after being unraced at two, but Prince Of Denial might be ahead of the handcopper. He won a Kempton handcap in May in the style of an improving horse, but then injured his right fore letitock at Lingfield and has needed time to recover. Maxte Don makes each-way appeal. She has decent form at shorter trips and may well improve again. Selection: SONG OF FREEDOM

	3.10		GROSVENOR CASENOS WASHINGTON SINGER BBC2 STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) £14,000 added 240 7f
1	1		FRUIDS OF LOVE (USA) (12) (D) (M Doyle) M Johnston 9 0
2			QUEET ASSURANCE (USA) (21) Makesum Al Naissum; E Duntop 8 11 K Fallos 1 10
3			SPEAKER'S CHAIR (14) (K Abdustaty R Charton 8 11Pat Eddery 5 -
4	1	Ĺ	BN/R (48) (D) (Sheich Armed Al Maldourn) B Hills 8 9
5			BORANI (Dr. J.A.E. Hobby) i Baiding 8.8
6			CITY HONOURS (USA) IR E Sangaer! P Crapple-Hyam 8.8
			_ 6" dead-word _

BETTING: 15-8 Bahr, 7-2 Pruits Of Love, 9-2 City Honours, 6-1 Quiet Assurance, 7-1 Borsel, 12-1

Speniter's Chair 1986: Stage Fair 2 9 0 M Hills 4-7 fav (8 Hills) drawn (4) 5 ran

1986: State Feir 2 9 0 M Hills 4-7 fav (8 Hills) drawn (4) 5 ran FORM GUIDE.

Beter is a fifty against five coits but there was a lot to like about her winning debut at Doncaster (7f) In June when her six nivats (Henry Cecil, John Gosden and Ian Balding represented) were string out like times-mile chasers behind her, afthough no doubt the softish ground played a part in that. But just on first impressions, she looks discriptives/July Mark Johnston is excited about his current crop of juventiles and his FRUITS OF LOVE is well bred and an impressive winner on his debut at Newcastle (7f) — besting Prompt Delivery by over two lengths with the other five rumpers fosing contact, Quick Assurance is a sure-line future winner and was a pleasing third to Setteen on his Ascot debut (7f), while Speaker's Chair shaped well when third in a Newmarket maden two weeks back but may need an even stiffer test of stamine, being by Strikey Heights out of a half-aster to Razabow Quest, Boranil and City Honours must be decent to be taking on winners and the market should be a decent guide where they are concerned.

Selection: FRUITS OF LOVE

3.	40	GROSVENOR CASINOS HUNGERFORD STAKES BBC2 (Group 3) £30,000 added 7f 64yds (Round)
1 1		Biol ROSSE (33) (CD) (Wafe Said) D Loder 5 9 3
		At MUSHTARAK (90) (D) (H Al-Musaus) K Mainti 4 9 0
		CADEAUX TRYST (34) (D) (Maktouri Al Maktouri) E Dunko 5 9 0
4 3	2-6118	DECORATED HERO (20) (CD) (Goes of late Mr H. Allen) J Gosden 5 9 0.1 Dethori 2 119
15 5	504304	HELLO MISTER (5) (Bran Mitter) T Powel 6 9 0
16 (022013	TRANSLEMEED REDGE (30)(CD) (Tumbleheed Prins) B Mechan 4 9 0, M Tabbatt 8 B 105
		MISS RIVIERA (15) U.L.C PERICEI G Wage 4 8 11 M Hills 10 103
		UNICONDITIONAL LONE (15) (Als H Corroy) M. Johnston 4 8 12
		CAPTAIN COLLINS (20) (ID) (R E Sanssier) P Crapple Hyam 3 8 8 D Harrison 4 108
		DAZZLE (15) (D) (Chereley Park Start) M Strate 3 8 5
1		- 10 declared -
BETTR	KC 158	Duzzle, 3-1 Decurated Horn, 11-2 Cadenia Tryst, 8-1 Bin Rosle, 10-1 Captain Collins,

BETTING: 15-8 Dezide, 3-1 Decimited Rem, 11-2 Engleme, Tiyet, 8-1 Bin Rozle, 19-1 Capitals Collins, Tumbinaved Ridge, 12-1 Unconditional Love, 16-1 Main Edward, 25-1 Almostharask, 40-1 Helio Mister 1998: Bin Rosle 4 9 0 L Detion 9-2 (0 Loder) drawn (8) 8 an FORMA GUNDE

Although most of these ment a shot at Group Three company, they do not stand out as ready winners at this level – the exception being DECORATED HERIO. It can be taken as a negative that he has sperit much of his time at home leading Bernly The Dip in his work, but pethaps that should be regarded as a compliment. Decorated Hero was well below form in Newcastic's Beeswing Stales last time out when he was adnit of third-placed Capitals Collins, but he has got to be worth another chance now reunited with Franke Deston, who steeped her has not a neck with one of the chance and distance last.

[W. W W X W P R				
4.10 NEV	NTOWN STAKES 4f	(CLASS C)	£7,500	addəd
1 410-12 Brack 2 11-230 Busy 3 412 Pento	et water (14) (BF) (K Abdule Placent (56) (D) (S Wingfeld I AD (USA) (28) (D) (K Abdulen Shirke (20) (H R H Prince Fain	hy H Cacl 498 Digbyl B Hills 494 IR Charton 389		K Fallon 1 M Hills 3 Fat Sidery 4
	Proces 6 / Desired 11.8 9:	اده که معادلا انتها		

as if he will stay farther. Selection: BUSY FUIC			
2	.40	LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS D) £7 2m	,325 added to stakes
1		TRUNL MORNH (28) (N/ CHRONT) B Smart 5 10 0	
2	0-0411	MANAGED (16) (Hamdan Al Melebum) J Dunlop 4 9 9	R illis 1
3	44-252	VICKI ROMARA (83) (Balleys Horse Feeds) M Johnston 3	8 1 M Roberts 2
4	320222	BENUAMENS LAW (21) (D Love) 3 Pictoring 6 7 13	
5	003012	CHILDREN'S CHOICE (9) (C) (D) (Mrs A V Toerneo) W MA	4 معن الــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
		Factoria	

-5 dealered -5 dealered -6 dealered -6

THE ACK COLLING POLAR JEST APPRENTICE HANDICAP

	2.10	(CLASS E) £4,500 added 6f
	1 00-000	SAMBING (94) (D) (Maygan Ltd) M Channon 5 10 0
	2 460006	PATSY GRINCES (14) (CD) U K Gernesi J S Moore 7 9 13
		DELTA SOLEIL (USA) (16) (American Connection I) P Hairs 5 9 7
	4 021122	ALBUASI (14) (I) (The Equerte Partnershopi C Wall 595
ı	5 -45004	BLIS (28) (D) (G Verage) G Verage 5 9 4 G Market 12
	6 022322	MONTENDRE (12) (CD) (David Morr) M Heston-Elle 10 9 3
	7 -00300	LADY DIESIS (USA) (16) (D) U Peter Williams) B Hills 393
	8 605033	MESCER JOLSON (8) (CD) (Bob Frooms) R Hodges 8 9 1 Doubtin 9
	9 442113	RESIST THE FORCE (14) (D) (EF) (Mrs Barbara Hogan) C Cyaer 7 8 10 A Poll (3) 2
	10 -23263	JOHN EMMS (7) (Richard Green (Fine Paintings!) M Bell 3 8 10
	11 111550	THE FUGATINE (11) (D) (J A Retmond) P Machel 488 S Carson (5) 11
	12 140-00	CROESO CREATES (12) (D) (Davies and Bridgeman) B Palling 4 8 7 B Hanney (5) 14

BRIGHTON

2.00 Overture 2.30 My Beloved 3.00 Hever Golf Mover 3.30 Palamon 4.00 Keen Waters 4.30 Eri's

GOING: Good to Firm (watered last 6f).

STALLS: Im 4f - outside: remainler - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers last over 5f & 6f.

Left-hand, U-shaped course, unduluting and sharp.

Course's E of town. Fellow supposed from town centre. Regition station 1m (fast service from London, Victoria). ADMISSION:

Cub 512 Laccompaned under-16s free; Tattensils 58; Silver Ring 54 (fine 54 per car). CAR PARE: Free

BLINEREED PIRST TREE: Event Snowflake (2:30), Flood's

Bot Staff (visored) (2:30).

Hot Suff (visored) (2.30).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATE: None, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Mybotye (1:30) sent 202 miles by R Bastiman from Wetherby, W. Yorks.

	•	
	2.00	JAMMY HEAL NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 5f 59yds
1	624146	MISHRAAK (15) (D) R Amstrong 9 ?R Price :
2	130	OVERTURE (28) (D) R Harmon 9 1
3	3620	PRIVATE SEAL (17) G L Moore 8 6 A Clark (
4	32013	HIGH GAIN (18) (CD) P Howing 8 5 J Quinn 1
5	646	MRS MIDDLE (31) N Catagran 7 10 R Ptrench (3) 3
6	503	CORSECAN (29) S Dow 7 10C Retter
7		Prince and the second second second

2600 JUSTCHILLIN (7) C Dayer 7 10... - 7 declared -Minimum welght: 7st 1.0ib, True handicap weights: Mrs Meddle 7st 9lb, Corse-can 7st 9lb, Jus'chillin' 7st 5lb. BETTING: 9-4 Overtime, 100-30 Michrank, 4-1 High Gain, 11-2 Consecut.

ì	8-1 Private Seel, 9-1 litra Middle, 16-1 Just thillin			
	2	2.30	STANMER CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F £3,300 added 3YO 1.m	
Į	1	020342	MY BRLOVED (26) R Harron 8 12	
i	2	420000	TULSA (13) B Gabby 8 9	
	3	560	EWAR SHOWFLAKE (11) K C-Brown 8 2 M Heary (3) 4 I	
	4	0-0600	M T VESSEL (27) J Jenkins 8 1 C Retter :	
	5	600026	FLOODY'S HOT STUFF (16) N Littmoden 8 DN Adjams 6	
- 1		_	BOT the course and i Wish the State of the S	

O RAE UN SOLEIL (48) J Pfach-Heyes 7 12... RETTING: 8-11 My Balawed, 3-1 Flood's Hot Staff, 11-2 Tales, 12-1 M T

Vessel, 14-1 Ewar Securitains, 25-1 Rae Un Soleil
3.00 TARROT COMPUTER SERVICES HANDICAP
A ARRON MILITARIA COMPANIA MAMBRILLANDO TO TOTAL TO TOTAL TO THE COMPANIA MAMBRILLANDO THE COMPANIA MAMBRIL

1.50 Everset 2.20 Afaan 2.50 Desert Invader

3.20 Nor-Do-l 3.50 Qualitair Pride 4.20 Beech-

STALLS: 57 & 1m 67 - outside; remainder - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: More.

Fibresand surface; left-hand sharp, aval course.

Course is 3m 5E of town and 5m W of Newark. Rolleston Junction adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club 512; Tauersalis 5G (OAP members of course's Diamond Club 54, accompanied untier-16s free). CAR PARK: Free.

HINKERED FIRST TIME: Bagshot (1.50), Bosme Ville (3.50), Hoyland Common (4.20), Needwood Epic (4.55).

Wolverhampton on Privity
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNEES: Bagshot (1.50), Deeply Vale
(2.50) & Palo Blanco (2.20) sent 189 nules by G L Moore from
Woodlingtean, E. Sussex.

1.50 STARS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV 1) £2,800 added 7f

2.20 JUPITER HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 6f

2.50 STARS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,800 added 7f

ERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Nor-Do-1 (3.20) won at

wood Quest 4.55 Hancock

0	TARBOT COMPUTER SERVICES HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 7f	
	CHARLION SPRING (116) R Hodges, 9 7P P Marphy (3) 4 HEVER GOLF MOVER (11) (C) T J Naugreun 9 6 (6e) .A Clark 6	
- 2.0	AAND ATTENDED TO TOLKE DO	

 DO460
 TABASCO JAZZ (5) B Mechan 9 2
 D R McCube 8

 -00060
 HAVAGO (27) (0) R Harmon 9 1
 R Heights 1

 04060
 SUN OTROL (25) (0) J Amold 8 4
 R Recuber 7

 042750
 JA CHATELANE (21) (5 laws 7 13
 R Fireach 2

 051050
 SHERATON BIRL (22) (0) N Immoden 7 10
 M Adams 3
 Montrum weight 7sr 10h. The hendicap weight Stenton Girl 7sr 9th BETTING: 9-4 Hever Golf Mover, 4-1 Havago, 9-2 Tabasan Jazz, 6-1 La Chabeloine, 7-1 Cold Steel, 8-1 Stenton Girl, 12-1 Clarifon Spring, 18-1

3.30 WEATHERBYS BANKING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 4f

4.00 ASHFORTH-CARNABY SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m 4f

- 7 declared -BETTING: 6-4 Keen Waters, 9-2 Na Hulbheachu, 5-1 Chopia, 11-2 Kings-down Trix, 13-2 Carol's Dream, 12-1 Haydown, 16-1 Telephos

4.30 BLACK ROCK LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 7f

1 100205 SCATHEBURTY (10) (0) N Burke 4 9 9 M Hearty (3) 3
2 000203 CRSTML HEIGHTS (6) (CD) R O'S Jahren 9 9 3 A Christ 13
2 000352 ED'S FOLLY (9) S DOW 4 9 3 M P Murphy (3) 8 8
5 500400 IRRELE SCHOLAR (13) G I Moore 4 9 3 P Murphy (3) 8 8
5 000400 IRRELE SCHOLAR (13) G I Moore 4 9 3 F Morton 1 4
7 000010 INVESTIVE (10) (0) R Bestman 4 9 3 F Morton 1 4
7 000010 INVESTIVE (10) (0) R Bestman 4 9 3 P Murphy (3) 8 8
8 40506 VELVET JONES (2) G Charles Jones 4 9 3 F Morton 1 4
7 00005 NEWMORTON BUTTS (67) K McAuffer 7 9 0 Charles 7 0
10 063650 PEARL DAWN (19) (3) P Clarke 7 9 0 P M Admins 13
11 060005 STEP ON DEBAS (7) (0) (BP) M FGooley 4 9 0 R Priscate (3) 15
13 000660 LADY GOONA (15) M Polgass 3 8 8 J Quinn 11 B
14 600005 SUMER PLATS (22) A P Jones 3 8 8 R P clan 9 B
15 30040 SOWIET LADY (57) (0) J Long 3 8 8 M Baint (3) 4
15 declared -

– 15 declared – BETTINE: 3-1 Myloctye, 11-2 Stop On Degas, 6-1 Crystal Heights, 8-1 Erfs Folly, Lady Godbar, 10-1 Söver Parse, 12-1 Scathaburry, 14-1 Pearl Dayss, Polgaysase, 16-1 Fort Knox, Mai Caneal, 20-1 Soviet Lady, 25-1 others

py Times, 10-1 Eurolen, Edna's Gift, 12-1 Russian Romeo, 14-1 Wychony Flyer, 18-1 Wee Caristy, 20-1 others
6.55 NORTHERN AGGREGATES NURSERY HCAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 6f 2222 CLE OF SEVER (12) W Jave 9 7

13 declared
 EFTING: 15-8 Desert Invader, 4-1 Bold Aristocrat, 11-2 Thornto, 6-1 Mass Riviers Rose, 8-1 Desert Vale, 12-1 Deserth, Legend Of Aragon, 26-1 Sharp Return, Elly Beveled, 25-1 others

A-Z INSURANCE SERVICES HANDICAP

3.20 (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m			
1	36-RR0	SALORMAITE (11) (CD) Mass J Craze 6 10 0_S Webster 16	
2		CHERA CASTLE (151) (C) (D) P Hastam 4 9 13 Deen McKerown 2	
3		JISERSEN (27) (CD) P Howing 5 9 4	
4	121130	JOHNNIE THE JOKER (20) (CD) J Leign 692_C Teages (3) 5 B	
5	23531		
6	3-4060	OUR PEOPLE (13) (D) M Johnston 3 9 1	
7	005051		
8		MUHANDAM (21) P Kelever; 4 8 13	
9		953(000 (46) (CD) Mis N Macaulty 8 8 13R Winston (7) 3 V	
10		PALD BLANCO (25) G L Moore 6 8 13	
11		TAIGHUD (USA) (2) (CD) D Chapman 68 13 A Calitane 1	
12	322321	DAWAM ALLAIL (27) (D) M Janes 38 11	
13		SPARKY (11) (CD) (EF) M W Exserby 3 8 8 .6 Parkin (3) 8 B	
14	6166	LIQUID GOLD (13) (D) W O'Gomen 3 6 7 Etama O'Gomen 6	
15	30-451		
16	000020	SEA SPOUSE (10) (CD) M Banshard 683	
		- 16 declared -	
~		des Paul C.9 Elemana 7.1 Combu Q.1 by Court 10.1 Pausson	

3.50 ROYAL BANK FINANCE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added fillies & mares 1m 4f

13 600500 SHERMOOD (Sh N holy 4 8 2 P Fesser (3) 1
14 400006 WEST EES GRA (8) 7 Web 3 8 1 N Carlinio 2
- 1.4 declared BETTING: 11-4 Everset, 4-1 Bagsint, 5-1 Oberoots Dart, 7-1 Bold Street,
10-1 Pardon, 12-1 Be Warned, Gay's Gamble, 14-1 Quinzi Martin, 20-1
others

4.20 VENUS SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6) £2,875 added 270 5f

1		CHARLES LAD (12) (RF) R Guest 9 2
Ž		BEECHROOD QUEST (14) (CD) B Roowell 8 11.1 Chamack 7 D
3	004000	MARGARET'S DANCER (37) C Smith 8 11 T E Durcan (3) 4 B
4	024	OK JOHN (8) (8F) J Aleburt 8 11
5		PRECISELY J Whatton 8 11
6	0	THE RUELOLOGIST (13) Mess J Craze 8 11
7		DOUBLE APPEAL (20) J H Wisson 8 6
В		HOYLAND COMMEON (5) N Tinkler & 5
9		TM NOT SURE (46) J Berry 8 6
10		JE VARRA (23) W G M Turrer 8 5
11		REVER FRONTIER (S) M Uster 8 6
12	5	SUPER GEL (18) (BF) C Dayer 8 6
13		THEFFEC M W Exceptly 8 6 G Pentin (3) 8
14	006	TUI (12) K McAutifie 8 6
		- 14 declared -
PET	mary Fu2	Reactmoord Onest, 4-1 Charlies Lad. 6-1 OK John, 8-1 Str

per Sell, 10-1 for not Sere, 12-1 The Fuelchaght, 14-1 Hayland Cor Precisely, Theing, 20-1 others 4.55 MARS AMATEUR MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2.875 added 1m 6f

STALLS: 1m - inside; remainder - outside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 57 to 66: Low 7730yd to 1m40yd.

HAYDOCK --/-

HYPERION

5.40 Protocol 6.10 Vignette 6.40 Davoski 7.10 Eastern Lyric 7.40 Begorrat 8.10 Forest

DRAW ADVANTAGESHIGH for 5 to 6; Low Through 6 rounse.

Almost 6at, Left-hand oval course; straight 6 rounse.

Course is near junction of A550 and M6. Newton station 2m. AD-MISSMON: Coursy Stand 5.15; Tattersells 59; Newton Stand 5.4 (OAPs half-price in Tattersells and Newton Stand). CAR PARK: Prec.

BLINKERED FIRST THATE: Princely Affair (6.40), Bullydinero (visored) (7.40), Begorrat (7.40), Highspeed (8.10).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Davooki (6.40) won at Hay-book of Pather, Christon Fill 1 and (8.10) won at Hay-book of Pather, Christon Fill 1 and (8.10) won or Strukty. dock on Pricky, Clytha Hill Lad (8.10) won at Redcar on Sunday. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Elder Hill (7.40) & Mr Bough (8.10) (D Morris); Vignette (6.10) (J Gosden) and Canton Ven-ture (6.40) (S Woods) all sent 182 miles from Newmerkst, Suffolk.

5.40 SUTTON RACING SCHOOLS APPRENTICE HCAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f Afrikum weight, 7st 10th. Tue handicap weight. Supermick 7st 5th.

SETTING: 5-2 Taxden, 3-1 Protocol, 7-2 Cardon Venture, 6-1 Supermick,

Stream, 8-1 Secret Service

6.10 E.B.F. RENAULT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 270 6f

30 LEGEND OF LONE (28) I Glover 9 0

BETTHE: 5-4 Vignetia, 6-4 Requestor, 7-1 Legand Of Love, 12-1 Adju-tant, 16-1 Sara Moon Classic, 20-1 Bollin Ann, 25-1 others

E	.40	BALLEYS ORIGINAL IRISH CREAM HYCAP (CLASS E) £4,100 added 1m 2f 120yds
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2	30-240	MARADATA (38) (3) R Hollinshead 5 9 11 Detical 7
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9	555400	MERCURY (14) J Glover 480,T Sprake 8 9
		- 9 declared -

Newbury (2.40)
Song Of Preedom
Party Romance
Prince Of Denial
Ball Paradise

RACING RESULTS

Newbury - 3.40 C H L T 2.15: 1. MONTE LEMOS (7 Sprake) 4-5 fay; 2. Supreme Augul 6-1; 3. Monte Business 7-1, 5 rsn. 7, 2 (R Charton), Tota: £1.70: £1.10, £2.20. DF: £5.30. CSF: 21 21 158 158 Decounted Hero 2-1 9-4 2-1 11-4 Cadestra Tryst 13-2 13-2 8-1 11-2 Ple Rosin 10-1 8-1 8-1 9-1 Captain Collins 91 101 11-1 11-1 Russblewood Ridge 14-1 10-1 14-1 10-1 Occonditional Loss 14-1 14-1 12-1 14-1 Max Shaker 20-1 16-1 14-1 14-1 Abrustiana 301 251 251 201

51.70: 51.10: 52.20. 01: 15.30. 631: 57.18. NR: Overture.

2.45: 1. LEGGERA (1 Sprake) 25-1; 2. Allgament 8-1; 3. Storwards Lady 20-1. 13 ran. 9-4 for Forum (4th). 1%, shi-hd. U Dunicol. Tokes 547-20; 511-20, 53.10, 54.00. DF: F114 10, CSF: £197,06, NRs: Hac Idaho. Tino: £607.80 (part won, £770.50 to Newbury 2.40 today).

ren, 11-8 fav All in Leather (4th). 1/4, 1/4 £3.10, £2.90, DF; £72.50, CSF; £59.05, Tn-cast: £445.14, Tno: £145.20, NR; Gèo.

2.00: 1, SELMESTON (D Holland) 8-1; 2. Brodessa 4-1: 3. Ship's Demost 7-1, 12 ran. 7-2 fav Sushi Ber (5th). 11/2, 6. (S Williams). Tetes: £10.50; £2.50, £1.60, £2.40. DF: £28,40. CSF: £38,89. Tricast: £224,97. Tric:

7 mm. 2, 4, (M Johnston), Yester £3.00; £1.40, £1.20. DF; £1.90. CSF: £3.80.

3.05: 1. ESHTIAAL (K Darley) evens fav; 2. Hazard A Guess 9-2: 3. Monte Cavo 10-1. 6 res. 1%, nk. (J Duniop), Total £1.90; £1.50, £2.10. DF; £6.70. CSF; £5.87. Tricast: £25.63. NRs: Chief Monarch, McGillycuddy

4.05: 1. PATSY CLILSYTH (D Harrison) 5-2: 2. Always Lucky 8-11 fay: 3. Time To Time 5-1.5 mm. 4, %. (Mrs. L. Studes,). Total: £3.00; £1.10, £1.10. DF: £1.50. CSF: £4.57.

Kid 5-2 fax; 3. Danzig River 7-1. 1D ran. Hd, 1%. (D Morley). Total: £4.30; £1.20, £2.10, £2.90, DF: £9.90. CSF; £12.35. Inast: £54.61, Tho: £21.90. NR: Lord Of Love. Placesot: £14.60, Quadrot: £5.60.

* THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS SOUTHWELL 973 983 HAYDOCK (E) 974 984 CATTERICK (E) 975 985

Newbury 2.40 Indayl.

3.20: 1. GRUF SHAADI (K Failon) 10-1:
2. Telesunds 11-2 jt fax; 3. Blessed Spirkt-8-1. 15 ram. 11-2 jt fax Space Race (GR).

1/L, hd. (E 4/ston). Tota: £11.80; £3.30. Helia Mater 50-1 40-1 50-1 40-1 Each pay a fifth the ords, places 1, 2, 3 C - Coral, H - William Htt. L - Lachuckes, T - Tota

3.50: 1. PRINCESS TOPAZ (M Hits) 7-1: 2. Brand New Dance 12-1: 3. City Hall 11-4 (av. 10 ran. 12/t, 12/t) (C Open. Totar £10.50; £3.10; £4.00; £1.50. DF: £71.20. CSF: £81.15. Tricast £263.97. Tric: £86.40. 4.20: 1. E5061 (M Hits) 7-2; 2. Werning Express 9-4 fay; 3. Feel No Fear 16-1. 6 ran. 37/t, 37/t. (G Wragg. Totar £3.50; £2.70. Lude Forecast: £2.60. CSF: £8.37. Imperial Scholar (3-1) withdrawn not under orders: Rule 4 apprises to all bars, deduction orders: Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 25p in the pound. 4.50: 1. BRANDON JACK (I. Dettori) 2-1;

5 ma, 11-8 av Al III Learner (401. 14, 76. i) Belding), Toter £3.00; £2.10, £3.70. DF: £14.10. CSF; £19.51. Jeckpot: not won (pool of £14,400.88 carned forward to Newbury today). Place £367.70. Quadpot: £26.20. Place 6: £341.09. Place 6: £219.63.

BEVERLEY

3.35: 1. LADY OF THE LAKE (K Darley) 9-2; 2. Jamesican Füght 14-1; 3. Swiftway 14-1. 9 mm. 100-30 jt fass Dirab, Star Rage. 2.30: 1. FIZZED (J Weever) 2-1; 2. Folk-lore 4-5 fav; 3. Lady From Umerick 12-1.

4.35: 1. DEKI (G Carter) 7-2; 2. Bolero

It is all very well for Hussain to campaign for a tougher line but in making a case for verbal abuse he is on dangerous ground

bowling. They are tough competitors, too, but nobody should run making it very clear that they want away with the idea that this matters you back in the pavilion more than technical accomplish-

I mention this because England's vice-captain, Nasser Hussain, apcan be made for bad-mouthing the opposition. In a passage from a book serialised by the Daily Mail, he wrote: "In the last three Cornhill

Tests we have not shown the same mental strength as the Australians." Referring to county cricket, he added: "No one is sledging anyone... the gap between this cosy litthat had been kept from me. "Be which will probably again come

A pretty obvious truth about the the world and Test cricket is im- careful," he said, "because there are present series of Test matches is that mense. The Aussies are at us all the people out there who won't think Australia are better at batting and time both physical and verbally...

As any number of past Test play-ers will testify, sledging in cricket is not a modern phenomenon but to pears to believe that a strong case make public a clash between romantic legend and the reality of today's sporting life is to my mind irresponsible. It lays bare the bitter truth that sport is not what a lot of people imagine.

A veteran professional footballer once explained, with great simplictwice about doing you harm."

It is not hard to guess that there are many influential people in sport who resist the idea that a performer can afford to be compassionate. Be first is their abiding

Bearing this in mind, you are bound to wonder sometimes what sport will look like in the future. Will it be more about attitude than performance?

estly about where his team stands in the wider scheme of things,



Following a defeat at Arsenal on Monday, the Coventry City manager, Gordon Strachan, spoke honplayers work hard and have the proper attitude." Seen from a distance, this applies

ity, maximum effort and not much in the way of inspiration.
It is a description that can be ap-

plied, in the main, to the efforts of England's cricketers. A fine line in good fortune here and there but when serious questions were asked they were not good enough.

Even the best cricket brains seem unsure about the answer to this but to suppose that it rests entirely with a more militant approach sets a bad example to the game's next gener-

Frankly, I have long since rejected the idea of sports events as a matter of life and death or even a reason for disturbed sleep. Doubt-

will come up against. Moderate abil- lar thinking, but I am comfortable

Most people who get angry about sport do so in the absurd hope that it will bring about improvement. It is a childish mechanism and they are

usually disappointed.

A conclusion arrived at personally is that the steady application of organised publicity is as damaging to British sport as the removal of team games from school curriculums. It increases pressure on the performers and sets up victory as the only worthwhile

to at least half the teams Coventry less this does not fit in with poputemperaments, Graham Gooch and David Gower. Bearing in mind that Gooch would like to hear national anthems played before Test matches, it makes you wonder what

cricket is coming to.
This week saw a vulgar outburst on the field at Chelmsford when Essex and Glamorgan met for a place in the Nat West Trophy final. Stoking up hotter and hotter fires in the players will lead inevitably to

repeats of that incident.
It is all very well for Hussain to campaign for a tougher line but in making a case for verbal abuse he is on dangerous ground and should

CRICKET: Warwickshire cruise to fourth NatWest Trophy final in five years

Sussex succumb to Donald

JON CULLEY

reports from Edgbaston Warwickshire 342-3 Sussex 237 Warwickshire win by 105 runs

Faced with the prospect of scoring 300 in 49 overs when they re-sumed their rain-affected semi-final against Warwickshire, Sussex were never in the hunt here yesterday, losing wickets too frequently to stand a realistic way to figures of 5 for 37. chance of overhauling the home side's formidable 342 for 3.

Only if someone could have emulated Rajesh Rao's phenomenal efforts for Sussex against Derbyshire in the quarter-finals, when the 22-year-old newcomer produced a matchwinning 158, were Warwickshire even remotely likely to be denied their fourth NatWest Trophy final in five years.

No such innings was forthcoming and, while Mark Newell Moores (45) did their utmost to medal from Nelson Mandela. take a degree of respectability back with them to Hove, the winning margin of 105 runs accurately reflected the superiority of the home side.

The left-handed batsman David Hemp deservedly col-

Edgbaston scoreboard

W Jams Ibw & Donald A A Khan e Smith & Don M A Robinson not out Extres (b2, b3, w10) Total (53.1 overs) Peli (cost): 3-53, 4-73, 5-122, 6-147 7-193, 8-221, 9-233. Bowling: Welch 10-1-45-1: Brown 8-0-29-0; Gies 12-0-70-1; Donald 10.1-1-37-5; Small 6-0-21-0; Smith 7-0-30-1.

lected the man of the match award for his unbeaten 111 on Wednesday, although the matchwinning performance in yesterday's segment was contributed by Alian Donald, whose final delivery clattered into Moores' leg stump as Sussex capitulated to the first ball of the 54th over.

The South African pace bowler - who will give way to Brian Lara as Warwickshire's overseas player next season - hit

Kept in reserve until yesterday by the acting captain, Neil Smith, Donald began Sussex's downfall by bowling Bill Athey in the fifth over of the morning. Rested after five overs, he returned just before lunch to claim Mike Newell as his second victim and then took all three wickets to fall in an afternoon session lasting little more than 20 minutes, giving himself time to catch a flight home to South Africa last night to receive a Pres (79) and the captain Peter idential Sports Award gold

> After losing Athey, Sussex made their task more difficult by suffering their second run-out. Mike Newell changed his mind about a run after a push to point, leaving Neil Taylor stranded half-way down the pitch as Trevor Penney's throw hit the stumps at the non-striker's end.

Taylor's departure brought in Keith Newell to join his broth-er, but he was bowled by the leftarm spinner Ashley Giles after the pair put on 49 in 11 overs. Vasbert Drakes, a big hitter who might have given Warwickshire cause for concern, lasted only 15 balls before he was caught at deep midwicket by

Hemp off Smith's off-spin. Moores and Mike Newell ensured that the contest would at least continue after lunch by adding 45 in eight overs but, when Donald returned, Newell stepped away to attempt a forcing stroke and was beaten for pace, Sussex's last, remote hopes



in the NatWest Trophy semi-final against Sussex yesterday

disappearing with his off stump. With neither Paul Jarvis nor Amer Khan equipped to survive for long as Donald completed his haul, Neil Smith, elevated to oneday captaincy in the absence of both the injured Tim Munton

and Nick Knight, was soon enjoying his 10th success in 11 matches in that capacity. Essex will need to be on their mettle to deny Warwickshire another celebration at Lord's on 6

Robert Croft, the England and Glamorgan off-spinner, has been fined £1,000 and warned as to his future conduct by his county after his confrontation with Essex's Mark Ilott during Tuesday's Nat West Trophy semi-final.

Best make their mark with record spree

Long after Wednesday's Weltklasse meeting had finished, the Letzigrund Stadium - emptied of 20,000 people - bore a single testimony to the extraordinary events of preceding

The digital clock by the fin-ish line remained fixed on the 5,000 metres time Haile Gebrselassie had recorded in setting the third world record of the night - 12min 41.86sec. The more one looked at it, the more improbable it appeared.

Zurich had witnessed history in the breaking - never be-fore had this flagship of a grand prix meeting produced more than two world records at a time. The only comparable occurrence in recent times came 12 years ago in Oslo, when Steve Cram, Said Aouita and Ingrid Kristiansen set new marks in the mile, 5,000 and 10,000m respectively.

The names of Gebrselassie, Wilson Kipketer and Wilson Boit Kipketer - Wednesday's record breakers in the 5,000m, 800m and 3,000m steeplechase - will be forever linked by virtue of their collective performance on a muggy Swiss

"Everything was perfect - the weather, pace and crowd," said Wilson Kipketer after surpassing the oldest major record in the book, Seb Coe's 16-year-old time of 1:41.24.

Of the three, he was the only one whose race was against the clock, and after he had been paced through 400 metres in set the world record on the same ran 800m in 1:43.64.

Mike Rowbottom looks back on an extraordinary evening in Zurich where the statisticians had a field day

48.10sec - a second faster than Coe had travelled in setting his record in Florence in 1981.

Recalling the moment when the pacemaker dropped away from him during that run, Coe said: "The response of the crowd at that moment is like nothing else. In a stadium such as Oslo, Brussels, Zurich or Crystal Palace, they know the situation, what you're going for, and the reaction coming out of the darkness is a magic moment, a surging push in the back."

So it was for the naturalised Dane as he advanced on gazelle legs towards the prize he has had in mind for two years - and the additional world record bonus of \$50,000 (£33,000) and a 1kg gold ingot.

Zurich, with an annual budget of £2.5m, can afford the best. When the best perform, they get a reception which very few other venues match. The acoustics of the stadium are such that the air seems to buzz with noise, most particularly on the terracing within the V-shaped stand beyond the finish line - athletics' version of

the Kop.
Wilson Bort, who lowered the steepiechase mark to /:>y.ut had company until the last 30 metres, when he broke clear of two fellow Kenyans, Bernard Barmasi and the man who had

track two years earlier, Moses

Kiptanui. Gebrselassie did his damage over the final 200 metres to shake off the challenge of the 5000m world champion, Daniel

The Kenyan, who finished with a Commonwealth record of 12:44.90, confirmed yesterday that he will race over 1500m at Gateshead on 7 September.

He will be joined by fellow Kenyans Kiptanui, who will run in the steeplechase, and the world 10,000m champion, Sal-Barsosio, who is down for the

Coe was not the only Briton & to lose a record on the night. In finishing second to Hicham El Guerrouj in the 1500m with a time of 3:28.95, Fermin Cacho of Spain beat Steve Cram's European mark of 3:29.67, set

as a world record in 1985. Dave Moorcroft, chief executive elect of the British Athletic Federation, also lost his European record of 13:00.41 in the 5,000m, where Dieter Baumann of Germany, in fifth place, recorded 12:54.70.

To round off a night for statisticians to cherish, there were also two world junior records for Kenyan athletes - Noah Ngeny, with 3:34.54 in the 1500m, and Japheth Kimutai, just 16, who

Leeds lose captain to ban

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Two players have been punished for high tackles with bans that will rule them out for the rest of the Super League season.

The Leeds captain, Gary Mercer, has been suspended for five matches for a late, high tackle on Bradford's Graeme Bradley last Sunday. The disciplinary committee said that the tackle had carried "great potential for serious injury"

Mercer, who was called up on video evidence after being placed on report during the

match, will miss the last four matches of the season - beginning with the match against the London Broncos on Sunday that could decide second place in the table – and the first round of the Premiership play-offs.

The suspension will not help his prospects for a new contract at Leeds; the former New Zealand Test player has already been linked with a possi-

ble move to Halifax. The Oldham hooker, John Clarke, has also been banned for five games after being sent off for a high tackle which left

broken nose last Tuesday.

Clarke was also found guilty of fighting, although the two clubs have avoided punishment for

the wider battle that ensued. The British Amateur Rughy League Association has hailed plans for a competition bringing together top amateur clubs and those from the First and Second Divisions of the professional game as a potential

breakthrough. The competition, if approved by the two bodies, will open up pathways and opportunities for ambitious amateur clubs throughout the country who London's David Krause with a wish to opt for professional status," Barla's Ian Cooper said.



The time and money game



Grant Dalton, Merit Cup skipper, reflects on his win in the Fastnet Race and looks forward to next month's Whitbread Round the World race, when he will write for the Independent

> would have had a lot of work on. Sailing with sponsors' guests,

> maybe fitting a new rig, we will

The pressure on the syndicates

preparing for the start of the Whitbread has suddenly increased following a Fastnet Race that raised more questions than it answered. Both time and money are at the heart of it and there may be a few unpleasant bullets to be bitten, some courageous decisions to be made. Merit Cup was first into Plymouth, but it wasn't first out as teams scurried away to start a whole new round of testing

and catching up. We have been in this situation before, in the 1989 pre-Whitbread Fastnet, with the maxi-Fisher & Paykel against Peter Blake's Steinlager. We went round the rock and were run down big time, and by big time I mean an eight and a half minute lead turned into a two and a half minute loss, but knowing in our heart of hearts that we had a serious downwind

It had to be addressed. We knew that if we didn't we would be suffering badly in the Whitbread. The net result of it was

we had to improve the boat con- and the start on 21 September siderably, tossing the entire sail wardrobe out, and starting

But we never quite caught up because to do that we would have had to make up six months not only of the work which our rivals had put in place, but six months of our own history and we had just six weeks to do it in. In the end we were on the pace with them, but we never

had the sparkle they had. I think some of the Whitbread teams are finding themselves in that situation now, and I am not saying we are not one of them, that we are the hot ones and the others are not. By no stretch of the imagination is that true. But we had planned on con-

tinuing development and all the Fastnet Race win has confirmed to us is that the development programme is at least on the right track, rather than having to come to terms with the thought that it might be on the wrong track, throw it out, and take a new direction.

Any campaign between now

have our second boat arriving to do some side by side testing. Many will have engineering work to do, perhaps replacing keel bulbs, tidying up glitches in the mechanical and electrical Having to fit in an addition-

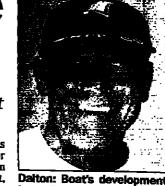
performance analysis programme, develop new sails and modify boats, will all have to be crammed into an already tight schedule. They will also have to be paid for out of budgets which may not be as elastic as everyone needs. The only thing which everyone should have equally is the flexibility of management approach which is always necessary in running a campaign of Whit-

bread complexity. But the extra problems are those you can do without as the prospect also looms of having to invite the scrutineers on board to make sure you have complied with all the rules. Every bit of kit may have to be

measured to make sure it meets specifications, and when, for some, a favourite bit of work on a secret weapon is thrown out, there is the time lost, the money down the drain. The options at this stage are normally pretty limited and

the only things people would be playing with would be sails, keel bulbs and masts. In the main that means lighter masts and lighter keel bulbs, though keeping the favourite shape, and perhaps still looking at the mix of sail shapes and weights that gives you maximum cover and speed over the widest range of wind speeds and the angles at which the boat is sailed.

The Fastnet crystallised our thinking in particular areas, like light air sails. Our trio of Kevin Shoebridge, Mike Sanderson and Micky Ickert, the ex-Team New Zealand America's Cup designer who has also been consulted by Lawrie Smith, are working hard on that as we take the boat to Belgium this weekend. That is business, but next weekend a visit to the motor rac-



is on the right track

ing grand prix should be more

We have some pressure on us. too. We know we are not fast enough at this point to win the race and I believe both Chris Dickson's Toshiba and Smith's Silk Cut could beat us. The worry is that they still have more to pull out of the bag, that they are not as deep into their development programme or into what they think are achievable targets as we are. So we are going to

have to work really hard. The bonus from winning the Fastnet was that, of the top four boats, we were the only ones who had not sailed Whitbread 60s before. We started in March and in five months we can probably say we are on the pace. So we have been pleased to see the hard work, thinking and meetings paying off. That is a cred-

USPGA CHAMPIONSHIP: Tormented 1991 winner returns to form with three birdies at the finish

Disciplined Daly takes early lead

ANDY FARRELL

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eports from Mamaroneck.

If John Daly was a surprise win-ner of the USPGA Championship at Crooked Stick in 1991, being the ninth reserve and better known for destroying hotel rooms and bottles of Jack Daniels than championship golf courses, his claiming of the early clubhouse lead in the first round of this year's tourna-ment at Winged Foot was no less expected.

Daly's last act in a major championship was to take a quick left while walking from the ninth green to the 10th tee during the second round of the US Open and head for the car park. He has only played two tournaments since then but, on a course requiring precision rather than length off the tee. Daly went w the top of the leaderboard with a four-under 66.

Two strokes behind were the Open champion, Justin Leonard, and the former USPGA winners Paul Azinger and Bob Tway, plus Tom Kite, the US Ryder Cup captain. Kite announces his Ryder Cup wild cards on Monday and showed everyone else what he is looking for when he birdied four holes in a row.

Using his driver only four times. Daly more often went

that club which set him up with short iron approaches to the last three holes which he put to five feet, four feet and a foot. "It was conderful to finish with three birdies," Daly said. "They are three of the hardest holes in

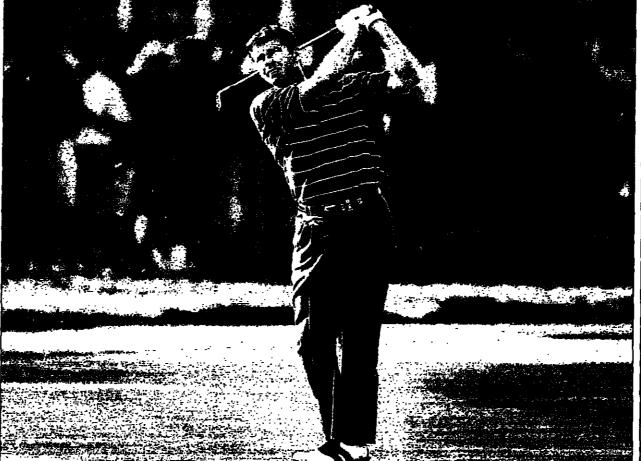
This has been one of the more turbulent years in the life of the 31-year-old former Open champion. He ended up in hospital after a drinking binge at the Players' Championship in March, enrolled for the second time at the Betty Ford Clinic and had divorce papers served on him by third wife Paulette. "Golf is an addiction, just as alcohol is," he said.

"It's taken me a few years to realise I can't think ahead too far. It's one day at a time and one shot at a time. It's hard but it makes me more patient and more at ease with myself. Ive had 15 chances in life. I'm scared of what this disease has done to me and to mess up again."

Daly has been following fitness and nutrition programmes to alleviate the exhaustion which was his reason for quitting the US Open. "I have lost weight and I have a lot more energy, which I haven't had since '91. It feels good to be able to focus for

18 holes instead of only nine." The other new ingredient in Daly's life is Ely Callaway, founder of the equipment comwith his three-wood and it was pany who signed up Daly when

J Hickson, M Standly, P Jor



Nick Faldo plays his third shot to the first green in the opening round of the USPGA yesterday

his alcoholism put paid to his previous deal. "He understands people who have this disease," Daly said. "It's a father-and-son thing. He is very supportive. The person comes before the athlete." In return, Daly, who dislikes baseball caps, has started wearing a Hogan-style hat fea-

turing his sponsors' name. While Tiger Woods was expected to figure prominently on the leaderboard, Daly was not. You have no choice when you go in the rough but to take your medicine and chip out," Daly said. "Some of the rough may be four inches, as they say, but most of it looks eight inches. But this course reminds me of Crooked Stick because you have to draw the ball off the tee

and that helps me a lot."
Woods and Ernie Els could only score level par 70s, two behind their playing partner. Leonard. Woods went to the turn in 32, but gave two of those shots back with a seven at the par-five 12th. The Masters champion pushed his drive into the trees and it took a few ric-

ochets to emerge. "Until then I was playing and thinking so well," Woods said. "Ernie and I were feeding off each other.'

With the prize money for the championship given a pre-tour-nament boost, third place here might be good enough for Nick Faldo to qualify automatically for the European Ryder Cup team - but his disappointing season in the majors looks like continuing after a 75.

The return of the block that Faldo has been trying to eradicate was the major cause of his lacklustre performance. "Just too many bad shots," Faldo said. "Bit of a mystery because it's not being going right for the last three days."
While Per-Ulrik Johansson

fell away from his outward 32 to return in 41, despite bogeying the last, Ignacio Garrido, on his first visit to America, gritted his way to a level par 70. With his win in the German Open in June and second places in the last two weeks, the 25-year-old Spaniard has virtually booked his place at Valderrama.

Johnson criticises slow players after 68

Britain's Trish Johnson was critical of slow play after shooting a four-under-par 68 in the opening round of the Weetabix British Women's Open over the Old Course at Sunningdale

Johnson and Sweden's Lotta Neumann, who also scored a 68, finished the day three strokes behind Australian Karrie Webb who had a magnificent

We were out there for fiveand-a-quarter hours and the pace of play was hideous. Anyone who can't get round in four hours needs shooting," Johnson

"If you are a quick player you are penalised and it must drive the spectators mad. They can only see five shots in an hour. Johnson was out in 32 then drooped her only shot of the day

Hereford bullish about future

when she drove into a bunker at the 16th. She made amends immediately by holing from 25 feet for her fifth birdie of the day at the next hole.

Webb, winner in 1995, never looked back after an opening burst of five birdies in her first seven holes to turn in 31. She added two more at the 11th and 12th then parred in for her

"I was a little tired over the last few holes. I had a great start and didn't worry about the pace of play," she said after her round.

Many of the fancied players have left themselves with a lot of ground to make up. Annika Sorenstam finished on 72, Laura Davies on 74 while Alison Nicholas, the US Open champion had a 75 and Nancy Lopez and Italy. But that, he says, was fine: "It's always good to keep another door open."

worthwhile.

the awesome Jan Ullrich.

Sciandri goes flat out for recognition

Chris Maume reports on an Anglo-Italian's assault on the Rochester Classic on Sunday

For a British Olympic medallist, Max Sciandri cuts a low profile. Despite his road race bronze in Atlanta last year, he is an unknown quantity in the country of his birth outside the

cycling fraternity.
Still, he relishes racing over here and should be a serious contender for the Rochester International Classic on Sunday, the seventh of the 10 World

Cup races this year.

They understand the sport in Italy and realise that we are serious and dedicated ath-letes," he said yesterday from his converted farmhouse in Tuscany, where he was resting before travelling to England today. "You don't get that in the UK - although it seems to have changed in the last few years."

Sciandri was born in Derby in 1967, of a British mother and Italian father, moving to Bournemouth when he was a baby. At the age of nine he moved with his father to Viareggio, on the Tuscan coast, and spent the rest of his childhood moving "backwards and forwards" between England

He began racing almost as soon as he moved to Italy, and had a fair amount of success, but as he got older and developed international aspirations, he found himself being consistently passed over by the Italian selectors, both as an amateur and a professional. So in 1995 he put his British passport to good use, and bringing back a road race medal from Atlanta last year made it

As well as winning the Tour of Britain in 1992, Sciandri is also part of that exalted company of cyclists with a stage win on the Tour de France to their name. He took the sprint into St Etienne in 1995, and finished the race in his highest-ever position, 47th. He had a slightly disappointing 1997 Tour, however, though he finished in a respectable 67th, two hours and 42 minutes behind the winner.

"I had a few problems with the Tour this year," he says. "I had a problem with a tendon in my leg so it wasn't super for me. I was happy just to get to Paris. I came home after to take care of the problem, and now we'll see, we'll see."



Max Sciandri won an Olympic bronze for Britain

I can concentrate on racing. the World Championships are my big goal this year."

Sciandri will be doing the road race at the World Championships, in San Sebastian, Spain, in October. In last year's he finished back in 45th place, but to compensate there was the medal in Atlanta - Britain's first Olympic road race medal

He also has a good record in the predecessor to the Rochester, the Leeds Classic, winning it in 1995 and coming second last year. He liked the old Leeds course: "It was hard, not too hard, but hard enough to break up the field."

The Rochester course, which is largely flat, will present different problems. "It's got a very large field and the Kent roads are very tight, so we're hoping it's going to be a windy day, because it will split the field " the race director, Alan Rushton, said.

Flat courses are not entirely to Sciandri's liking, and the Anglo-Italian was not going overboard about his chances of victory on roads unknown to him. "I'm just looking forward to seeing the course," he said. "It's something new, so it's go-ing to be difficult to have a race plan. Because it's a very flat race there'll probably be a field sprint, which won't be too good for me, but we'll see."

His Les Françaises des Jeux team will not be working for him alone tomorrow, unfortunately. "We don't usually work for one person only," he said. We usually go for a couple of riders, but with it being so flat, maybe they'll help me out -

Celtic track German Celtic are interested in signing enburg, as the first-choice goal

Early first-round scores from Winged Foot

A Magee, F Couples, T Wat-

the German goalkeeper keeper. "I know Celtic are in-Richard Golz, who is out of favour with the Bundesliga club Hamburg.

l Garrido (Sp.), P Goydos, P Stewart, T Woods, E -Es (SA).

Hamburg's general manager, Bernd Wehmeyer, said yesterday Celtic had made an official inquiry about Golz. "We'll have a look in peace and quiet and then we'll speak to the Scots,"

Golz, with Hamburg since 1985, has been demoted to the bench since the arrival of the new coach, Frank Pagelsdorf, in the close season. Pagelsdorf has installed Hans-Joerg Butt. a new signing from ViB Old-

ing in the Bild daily. Press reports said Celtic, under pressure to conclude the deal before today's European transfer deadline, were prepared to pay five million marks (£1.8m) for Golz.

Real Madrid have signed the international defender Aitor Karanka from Athletic Bilbao. Karanka has signed a five-year contract with the Spanish champions. Real are believed to have paid one billion pesetas (£4.1m) to buy out his contract.

terested. I'd go there straight away," Golz was quoted as say-

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

For the first time since 1972, Hereford United will be playing non-League football tomorrow, when they entertain Welling at Edgar Street in the opening round of GM Vauxhall Conference fixtures.

The Bulls will launch their campaign to regain their Nationwide Football League place with Graham Turner, their director of football, still at the helm. Turner, the former

Aston Villa and Wolves manager, offered to resign in the aftermath of the traumatic final me of last season, when Brighton gained a draw at Edgar Street to save them-

selves and relegate Hereford. Turner changed his mind, however, and has maintained a full-time playing squad which has been strengthened by the signings of the forward Neil Grayson from Northampton and two defenders. Ian Rodgerson from Cardiff and Richard

Walker from Notts County. The man in charge on the has gone to Leyton Orient for Maldon Town.

pitch at Hereford is their cap-£42,000 while two forwards nain David Norton, a former Villa midfielder, who said this week: "It's been a long three months since the Brighton game. Everyone has had those three months to reflect on what

against Welling it's three points that matters, not how we play." Not all of Norton's teammates from last season have stayed at Edgar Street, though. The centre-back Dean Smith

happened last season... I've

been surprised at the quality of

our football pre-season, but

have left: Adrian Foster to Rushden & Diamonds and John Williams to Walsali. In Hereford's last season in

non-League football, 1971-72. they finished as runners-up to Chelmsford City in the Southern League. Tomorrow the Essex team play Clevedon in what may be their final game at their New Writtle Street ground, which has been sold for redevelopment. City have arranged a ground-sharing deal with the Jewson Eastern League side,

met on Monday.

Armstrong underlines Primma's class with smart success were added after the selectors

> Capt John Ledingham, part of the Irish team for the championships, rode Millstreet Ruby to win the Hickstead Salver by

Rusedski finds touch

Tennis

Greg Rusedski rediscovered the kind of form that carried him into the last eight at Wimbledon with an impressive vic-tory in the Pilot Pen International at New Haven, Connecticut yesterday.

The British No 2 encountered stout early resistance from American wild card entry Jeff Salzenstein but after snatching the first set, Rusedski romped to a 6-4, 6-0 victory.

The match lasted only 65 minutes and that suited Rusedski as he was due on court again four hours later against the Spaniard Albert Costa.

Salzenstein, like Rusedski, a 23-year-old left hander, created awkward angles with a forceful serve and after surviving a

sixth-game crisis. looked capable of causing trouble.
The world No 157 held a

break point in the seventh game which Rusedski saved with a fierce first serve and it was not until a sudden collapse in the ninth by Salzenstein that the match changed course.

Then a double-fault gave Rusedski two set points, and although he was unable to take the first with a backhand return too high, he grabbed the second with a well-timed forehand topspin return winner.

The American was then bro ken three times as Rusedski chipped, blocked and hit topspin returns. "I didn't return as well as I would have liked in the beginning," Rusedski said, "Then I started to settle down. When I got a few balls back it gave me

feating Ireland's Erik Holstein on ell, who are Armstong's parents-Mark Armstrong, who narrow-Ballaseyr Kalosha by a 2.45sec. in-law. The mare was covered

Equestrianism GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Hickstead

Athletics

شنرو

ly missed a place on the British squad for this month's European Show Jumping Championships, underlined the consistency of the mare Primma when winning yesterday's Derby Tankard on

ACENNO PROX (Durich, Swit) Ment 100mr 1 F Frac-erols (Nam) 9.98ser; 2 M Greene (LS) 9.98; 3 T Moragomery (IS),400mr 1 M.Johnson (US) 44.91; 2 I Nestrington (LS) 44.98; 3 D Kamage (Ug) 44.63; 4 R Back (B) 45.07; 800mr 1 W Kejeter (Den) 1.41.24 (world morred; 2 P Notural (Nam) 1:42.62; 3 P Konchelan (Ren) 1:43.00, 1800mr 1 H Sidge-rou; (Men) 5:28.91; 2 F Cacho (Sp) 3:28.95 (Eu-

the first day of the British Jumping Derby meeting.

Primma, a nine-year-old, was bought in Belgium three years ago by Stanley and Jean Powin mud fever at the time and, according to Armstrong, she looked a wreck. She was nevertheless bought because of her obvious scope as a jumper.

ropean records; 3 V Nyorgabo (But) 3:29,43: 10 I Mayord: KBH 3:33.21, 3,000m steeplectures; 1 W B Nghester (Vert) 7:29,05 (vert) records; 2 S Bermann Kenn 8:00.35; 3 M Notarus (Men) 8:00,78,5,000ec; 1 H Gebosshoos (Bit) 12:41.85 North record; 2 D Norme (Red 12:44.90; 3 Pier-get (Red) 12:49,87, 110m bardies; 1 A Jornson (Ms) 13:13; 2 M Coers (Ris) 13:14; 3 T Jornet (Bit) 13:21; 4 C Jeckson (GBI 13:30, 400m burdies;

With many of the leading rid-ers now jumping in the Netherlands, Armstrong did not have a strong field to beat, but Primma did all that was asked of her, de-Armstrong rode another mare, Corella, when winning a team silver medal in the 1993 European Championships. To

the rider's great distress,

orrhage just four months later. Primma may, however, be an even better mare. "She has fantastic scope and heart, she'd take on anything," Armstrong said. He will not be riding her in the Derby here on Sunday, partly because she is so brave that she might leap straight off the top of the 10ft 6in Derby Bank. Armstrong and Primma

Corella died from a brain baemgained points in all four of the new team trials held this year, twice finishing fourth in two of them- at Windsor and Peterborough. They were a couple of points adrift when missing automatic selection for the European Championships which went to the top three -Michael Whitaker, Robert Smith and Di Lampard. John Whitaker and Geoff Billington

a colossal margin of 13.85sec. at CURRISMEL INTEGED OF 15.83 SEC.

SRITISH, JANPING DERBY INSERTING (Bubasteed,
Sanand; Derby Tankand; 1 Pimma (M Amstorg,
680 clear, 44.71 sec. 2 Selfassey Holesya (E Hot-stein, IV) déar, 47.72; 3 Lonel (R Hoekstra, 68) clear, 51.00. Hildestead Salver; 1 Miserver Ruby Copt J Ledingham, bit clear, 76.55; 2 Comex (W Furnel, 68) clear, 90.40; 3 Bumbrooke Agen (G Fletcher, 68) clear, 92.18.

SPORTING DIGEST

MCROWAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 7 Oncinnati 3; Atlanta 2 Postulgi 6; Houston 13 Ronta 2; St Louis 5 NY Mets 2; Colorado O Philodelphia 5; Los Angles 2 Oncago Cuto 4; San Diego 6 Montreil 4.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Seettle 3 Milhautee E; Bosson 2 Tenes 12: Caveland 7 Detrot 4: Batemore 8 Celdend C: New York 4 Kansas City 6: Torong 9 Miningson 1; Change 8 Anchelm 5.

1 | Herbert (SA) 48,54; 2 D Houses (Hum) 48,79; 3 | Muzh, ff2; Rep) 49,28; Discuss 1 L Redel (Ger) 68,84m; 2 V Meinra Guh) 66,44; 3 A Settiff (US) 66,14, Janualise 1 5 Meinra Guh) 67,58m; 2 B Henry Gort 88,32; 2 M Corbert (SA) 86,26; 5 S Stockley (GB) 84,32; 5 M HF (GB) 83,54; Thirle Jamps 1 Y (Juesate (Lub) 17,29m; 2 K Hernson (US) 17,29; 3 D (Neputrih (Rus) 17,05; 5 F Aggeory (GB) 16,88. Pole vantit: 1 S Buhia (Ud) 5,90; 2 M Taxosov (Rus) 5,90; 3 L (Johnson (US) 550. Wearner: 1,00c; 1 M Onter (Jam) 10,98; 2 M Jones (US) 10,97; 3 G Deerd (US) 11,68; 20m; 1 M Jones (US) 27,7; 2 Z Miller (US) 27,7; 3 Z P museuch (Us) 22,39; 800c; 1,34 Museus (Not) 156,35; 2 A FQUAN (OA) 156,47; 3 Y Känningen Gho! 155,67; 1,00m iundian; 1 M Freeman (Bro 12,57; 2 L Figures (Swell 12,74, High jump; 1 H Haugitan (Rot) 2,00m; 2 A Acuf (US) 156; 3 L Justine (Rus) 133, Justine 11 H Hausecad (Not) 65,65cm; 2 J Store (Aus) 65,48; 3 T Dameske (GG) 65.00.

Football 17.30 uniess stoted
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
FIRST Division
Brastford City v Stoke (7.45)
Nottingham Fornat v Norwich (7.45)
Sunderland v Manchester City (7.45)
Transmers v Queen's Park Ranges (7.45)
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: West Ham v Regertem (7.45) (at Southers)
Util.

1887 7.30 unless stat

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RELAKO CIP Section A: Waterford v Cobt: Ramblers (7.45). Section C: Agritone v Mervus Utd (7.45). Section D: Drogreds v Longian (7.45). Sec-tion E: Snamsock Rovers v Home Farm Everton.

Cricket

11.0 urbes stored BRITANNIC ASSURANICE COUNTY CHARPTON-SHEP (Flest day of four, Industing Supday): Der-bys Detbyshire v Lancashure. Perhamooths: Hamashure v Yorkelsen. Landig: Middlessa v

BOWIS

FINGUISH WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP (Royal Learnington Spair, Strigines second reunch D harrism England by Re Durbor (Angal, Hampothan) 21, 14: N Fleet (Workington) at G Rednell (Fedications and Sufficial) 21.15: E Fleeticher Phobe Parti to C Artion (Pearchorough and Destinat) 21-5. 3 Bakes (Blackwell of J Learn (Storry Stratford) 21-5. 3 Bakes (Blackwell of J Learn (Storry Stratford) 21-5. 3 Caren (West Moors, Dorsel) at R Others (Burbagier Learn) 22-4; Y Webb (RACS; Gravesand) to J Learn (Boroschale), Worse) 21-20: A Care (Ringsheath, Berningham) to C Neash (Hungarford) 21-15; P Proud (Chowlets) bt E Mones (Feitnern) 21-11; P Proud (Chowlets) bt E Mones (Feitnern) 21-11; P Proud (Chowlets) bt E Mones (Feitnern) 21-11; N Stew (Norton, Durbarn) br N Echaerts (Bedgestern) 21-6; Crema (Stephand, Leicol bt B Stokes) 21-7; M Whate (Heddelgh, Suffold) bt W Adams (Chosertern) 21-11; N Stew (S Nortole) 55-12; Luttern (S Herrman) 21-7; Webgene of Heldelgh, Suffold) by W Adams (Chosertern) 21-12; Webgene of Heldelgh, Church Gresley U Mangaled) at Halford (P Bayer) 20-6; Ceathan Promence (Ad Dyel) at Spaiting Town I Baiding 17-12; Bile, Essen (F Medium) by I Prodo Town, Northers, G Leand 19-15; Purrey U Mastrol) bit Hinchley Sweet Pau II Rogers (21-10; Malam Regis (V Wallington) bit Revietn, Essen (B Fescher) 25-11; Rugby Tronsled (S Tromes) by Wessel, Aller (Froberte) 25-7;

TODAY'S FIXTURES Surrey, Trend Bridge: Motinghamshire v Son-erset, Hover Sussex v Cloucestershire. Worden-ter: Wordestershire v Glamorgan. TOUR MATCH (That day of four, including Sun-day): Chehmsford: First Class Counties' XI v Pak-

> FIRST WOMEN'S ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL. Bristol: England v South Africa (10.45). Speedway
> ELITE LEAGUE: Belie Vue v Peterborough (7.30).
> PREMERY LEAGUE: Arena Essex v Menepatie
> (8.0): Edenburgh v Berwick (7.30): Oxford v Ges-gow (7.43).

BOWLS: EWBA National Championships (Lean

Silecti, Cumbrus (S Pariser) to Desc. Nortals, C. Polingson 18-14; Ting M Desley) bt Carton Consey (S
Anderon 18-14; Ting M Desley) bt Carton Consey (S
Anderon 18-14; Ting M Desley) bt Carton Consey (S
Anderon 18-14; Selection Russel Park (I Hers) to
Porticipation of twigen, Cumbrus (I Herse) 23-8;
East Beidon, Durtern (I Watson) bt Leathers (S Garnen) 22-12; Bass, Alton (I Hernessta) bt Pesal Assuance, Hunt M Ducketti 24-14; Chernester (I Lock)
by Woole, Northumbertan (M Durth 22-19; Conbridge Chesteron (I Luren is Pening Engines, Hunsbridge Chesteron (I Luren is P. 16); Songham, Sulfork (S Farest-In Eastron (V Peningstam) 21-16; Baldock, Hers. (S Peggl) to Enginestan (O Motion)
by Motion (P Poole) 15-12; Code (C and C in Motionbid (I Poole) 15-12; Code (C and C and C in Motionbid (I Poole) 15-12; Code (C and C a

15-12
THEO TEST MATCH (Cratigorativary, Edinburgh):
Sectional v Australia Under 25: (Aus players first):
M Brown & G Wills M S Glen & A Withe 28-20; 7
Somewike & B Duper to 6 Logan & Dodds 287; P Horman & T Elsen Iz, M Alliano & B Mellor 238; Singlies (Soo players first): Logan M Wills 21-14;
Allison to Duprez 21-13; White Ix Elsen 21-14; Gien or Harman 21-15; Mellors for Brown 21-15; Gien or Harman 21-15; Mellors for Brown 21-14; Dodds or Somewike 21-17; Section 600 & Southerland & Australia 3. Football

Northern Ireland's World Cup Group Nine qualifier against Albania on 10 Septem-ber has been switched from Tirana to the Hardsum stadium, Zunch, by Fifa, world footbell's governing body, because of continuing political turnoll in Albama. NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Postpo quateti: Tomorrow: Cartiff v Chester (internat

EUROPEAN CUP-WRREESS' CUP pre-liminary round first leg! Tallurne Sectam (Est) 1 Betshine Bobrask (Bolet 1, Edges Verhus Lithy O Happel Beershobe (Bri O' Levels Sofio (But 1 Shound Bratistae Should 1, Postporect Dynamo Balum (Geof) v Asoral Yessen (Amr) herestrogged pitch.

RVON BNSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Ipsatch 2 Nomech 0.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Europees Cup pre-

LESERTADORES CUP Plant second log: Crustico (Br) 1 Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0 (agg: 1-0). Inn 1 Sporing Cristal IPPNO 0 taggs 1-10.
SCOTTISH LENGLIZ CHALLENGE CUP Second-round draws Queen of the South v Suring Albors Benned, v Autors, Riskin Rosser v Stermen, flyer Void-bands, Patrick, Ross County v Grennock, Manson (Tes to be phased 25-27 August).

D De Debed 28-27 Augusti.

Rugfly League
Super Leadue Visa world Club ChampIONSHIP EUROPEAN QUALIFIER: St Helens
(26) 42 Parks St-Genrale (4) 4. St Helens
(26) 42 Parks St-Genrale (4) 4. St Helens
(26) 43 Parks St-Genrale (4) As Helens
(26) 43 Parks St Helens
(26) 43 Parks St Helens
(26) 43 Parks St Helens
(27) 44 Parks
(27) 45 Parks
(27) 45 Parks
(28) 47 Parks

Wardnegost Tries Roper, Laupu, Wingfield: Goals Roper Z. (6,076).
DIVISIONAL PREMIERSHIP: Cumbris Pool: Barrow (1,2) 22, Whithshawten (1,5) 30, Barrows Tries Attouson, Halasil, Waddelf, Goals Manucod S. Willeshawten Tries Leadwarde 2. Secté 2. Februida. Qurk: Goals Hartherington 3. (6,16). Workington (6) 28, Cardise (6) 12, Workington (7) 28, Cardise (6) 12, Workington (7) 28, Cardise (7) 12, Workington (7) 28, Cardise (7) 12, Workington (7) 28, Cardise Tries Author Control (7) 12, Workington (7) 12, W

Humslet (12) 12, Dowelbury (5) 25. Hunslet: Yeles Childs. Roper; Goals S Elis 2. Develbury: Tries: P Delaney, Flynn, McKelne, B Williams. Goals: Esten 4, Drop Goals Deon. (1,107). Rugby Union

Speedway
WEDNESDAYS LATE RESULTS: Prenier League:
Long Eston 53 Aeran Essex 37.
ELTE LEAGUE: King's Lynn 45 Joseph 45; Poole
35 Stedhod 55.

Swimming SWithsming
EUROPEAN CHARPONSHIPS (Seville): Men's
one-metre springboend: Flost somi-finat: 1, R
Aberez (Sp) 357-95pts; 2 H Schleppe (Ser)
343.80: 3 D Mearch (NI 330.60; 6 A A (CB)
278.52. Second somi-finat: 1 A Wiels (Ger)
352.41: 2 M Shipton (CB) 339.00. Moreone 10metre platform semi-finat: 1 E Zhuprra (De)
438.93pts. 7 L Ward (GB) 374.49. Water polo:
hay of Portugal 17-0; Germany by Casch Republic
8-4: Netherlands in Russie 12-6.

Tennis

Ternels

PILOT PEN INTERNATIONAL (New Haven, Count) Second round: J Sanchez (Sp) bt P Hasmist (Neth) 3-6 5-3 8-3; S Banchez (Sp) bt B Hasmist (Neth) 3-6 5-3 8-3; S Banchez (Sp) bt B Black (Zm) 6-3 6-2; R Krajicak (Neth) bt N Lapenti (Eca) 6-4 6-3; G Ruscitics (SS) bt J Sotterstein (US) 6-4 6-0.

RCA MENTS CHAMPFORSHIPS (Indianapolis, Indiana) Second round: I Woodbridge (Aus) in M Darm (Eca) 6-4 6-4; M Rose (Ch) bt I Champon (fr) 2-6 8-4 6-4; M Rose (Ch) bt I Champon (fr) 2-6 8-4 6-4; M Rose (Ch) bt I Champon (fr) 2-6 8-4 6-4; M Rose (Ch) bt I Champon (fr) 2-6 8-4 6-4; M Rose (Ch) bt I Champon (fr) 2-6 8-4 6-1; M Larson (Swel bt F Sentro (Fr) 6-3 6-2; R Fromberg (Aus) bt M Meriden (US) 6-3 7-6; T ho (US) bt G Weener (US) at 7-6 9-4; C T Enquest (Swe) bt N Weederfeld (sh) 6-3 6-0; C Moya (Sp) bt S Campbel (US) 7-6 5-7 7-2; M Woodford (Aus) bt J Engle (Aus) 6-3 7-5; A Correlp Sp) it A Boesson (fr) 6-2 6-7 6-2.

DU MARIRER WOMEN'S OPEN (Fronto) Second round: A Contiger (SA) in N Dectry (Fr) 4-6 6-4 6-2; A Sancher Vicano (Sp) bt A Miller (US) 6-3 6-3; L Devenoor (US) bt A Suggrams (Usp) of 6-2 7-6; A M Fronton (US) 6-3 6-3; L Devenoor (US) bt A Suggrams (Usp) of 3-6-7 6-2. LIZA perior's SATELLITE (Worthing) Quarter-6-naise: J Fos (Sc) bt C Woodrom (LB) 6-3 6-2; P Land (ES) bt S Saterit (Aus) 6-1 6-3; C Sneh

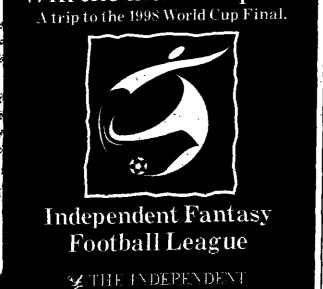
TODAY'S NUMBER

295

The number of votes cast for Marco van Basten as the best players of the 90s in a pol among Italian coaches and for-mer players. Fioreritina's Aræntinian striker, Gabriel Batistuta, was in second place with 205 votes, with Milan's George Weah third with 198.



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REGISTER TOMORROW

Win the ultimate prize



On the right tack

Grant Dalton prepares for the Whitbread race, page 22

sport

Faldo falters

Briton left behind by Daly in the USPGA, page 23



McManaman heads for Barcelona

Liverpool ready to accept Spanish club's £12m bid

ALAN NIXON

Steve McManaman, one of Liverpool's finest home-grown talents, is poised to join Barcelona today for £12m. The Spanish club tabled their offer yesterday and are keen to complete the transfer by midnight tonight, which is the deadline for regis-

tering players for the Champions' League.
Liverpool's board were considering the offer in an emergency meeting yesterday but look certain to accept. It is believed they considered the offer too good to turn down, particularly in view of McManaman's failure in the last year to realise

fully his huge potential.
It is understood that Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, has not opposed the sale. The proceeds will be available for him to spend on players and a £3m deal to recruit the Internazionale central defender, Massimo Paganin, was being

discussed last night. McManaman was in Spain yesterday having talks with Barcelona officials. With a six-year contract and wages of more than £30,000 per week on offer, he seemed certain to agree to the move.

Under his present five-year deal with Liverpool, signed three years ago, McManaman is understood to earn around £12,000 per week. As he did not request a transfer he is likely to receive a severance payment from Liverpool of around £200,000.

Barcelona made their approach after Bobby Robson, the club's general man-ager, watched McManaman for the second time in five days when Liverpool lost to Leicester City in the Premiership on Wednesday evening. Louis van Gaal, for-merly with Ajax, replaced Robson as Barcelona coach during the summer and buying players is now one of the key jobs for the former England manager.

Although they recently spent £13m on Sonny Anderson from Monaco, Barcelona are not short of money after Ronaldo's move to Internazionale this summer. A transfer fee has yet to be agreed, but £18m has already been paid

to buy out the Brazilian's contract. Barcelona will also earn millions from the Champions' League, presuming they qualify after managing only a 3-2 home win over the Latvian club Skonto Riga in the first leg of the preliminary round.
If the McManaman transfer goes

through, it will be the second most expensive involving an English chib, fol-lowing Alan Shearer's £15m transfer from Blackburn to Newcastle last year. It would also be the second bigname departure from Anfield this week, following John Barnes' move to Newcastle on a free

The sale of McManaman would leave Liverpool comfortably in the black on their recent transfer dealing. Nearly £12m was spent in the summer

on Paul Ince, Oyvind Leonhardsen, Danny Murphy and Karlheinz Riedle, but Stan Collymore was sold to Aston Villa for £7m. Although some Liverpool supporters had become frustrated by McManaman his loss will be keenly felt at Anfield. As

a Liverpool-born player, he has always had a special place in the Kop's affections. Aged 25, McManaman joined the club from school and has scored 31 goals in 210 League appearances. He has also played 18 times for England since

making his debut two years ago. However, although he has established himself as one of the greatest talents in the English game there is a feeling that his career has stalled in the past year as Liverpool faltered during the run-in for

Spain is where the big money now reigns

GLENN MOORE

Football correspondent

Barcelona's £12m bid for Steve McManaman's emphasises that, despite the departure of Ronaldo, it is La Liga and not the Premiership which has displaced Serie A as the world's wealthiest league.

In July alone Spanish clubs spent £150m (English clubs spent £120m in the whole close-season) with "lesser names" such as Athletic Bilbao, Deportivo La Coruña and Real Betis involved almost as heavily as Barcelona and the two Madrid clubs.

As in England, television is the progenitor of the spending frenzy. Barcelona received £23m from television last year, with 54 of their matches being among the staggering 724 games transmitted live (Sky showed 230, including 40 Spanish games).

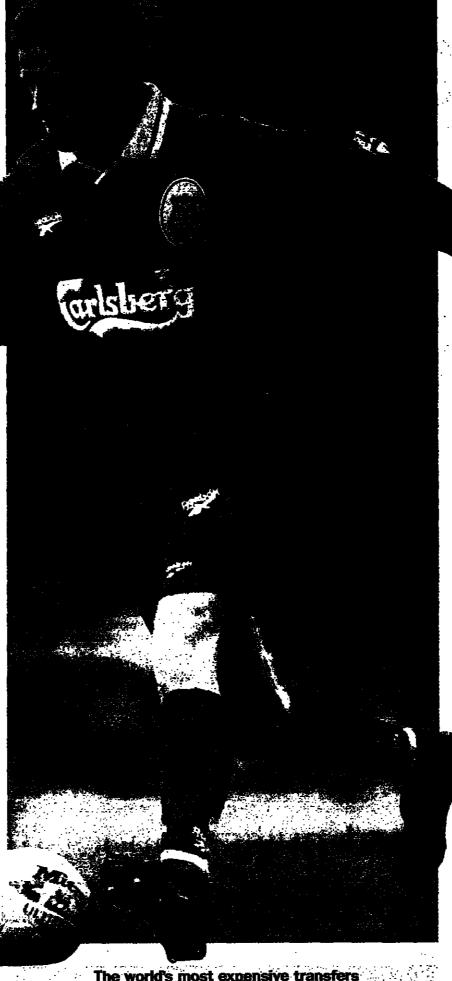
The prospect of playing in Barcelona's glittering side (net worth listed at £400m). with Stoichkov, Giovanni, Dugarry, Guardiola, Reiziger, Figo et al is sure to tempt McManaman, however happy he is on Merseyside. So, too, the chance of working with Louis van Gaal.

orking with Louis van Gaal. ous candidates in England, Alessandro McManaman is smart enough to realise Del Piero an overseas possibility.

that his game needs developing. Since Euro 96 it appears to have stagnated. He is yet to successfully deal with man-marking, and his goalscoring needs work. He remains a very good player but his po-tential is not being fully realised. The danger is that he may become a fringe player in the Barcelona side, so strong is their squad. This would not be good for him or England.

For all the reservations about his game he remains, however, a fine player, one of the best at breaking down defences in the English game. It thus seems odd that Liverpool are apparently prepared to sell him. It ought not be for financial reasons. They have spent £12m on transfers in the summer but received £7m for Stan Collymore. They have spent heavily on the ground, with the rebuilding of the Kemlyn Road end completing a thorough overhaul, but received some assistance from the Foot-ball Trust and, of course, are about to receive another £7m from Sky.

This should mean they can replace McManaman, but with whom? Darren Eadie and Trevor Sinclair are the obvi-



The world's most expensive transfers

"Rocaldo (PSV Endhoven to Barcelona) 1996 £13m Anderson da Silva (Monaco to Barcelona) 1997. ulgi Lentini (Romo to Milan) 1992 £12.5m Christian Vieri (Juventus to Atletico Madrid) 1997 see Visit (Samudoria to Ramatus) 1992 £12m Juninho (Middlesbrough to Atletico Madrid) 1997. Entico Chiesa (Sempdone to Perma) 1996

Romaldo (Barcelona to Internacionale) 1997 £9mRoberto Rice (Real Betis to Athletic Bilbac) 199 £8.5m; Stan Collymore (Notion Forest to Liverpool) 1995 £85m:--....Roberto Bassio (Juventus to Milan) 1995. 58mAndrei Kanchelskis (Everton to Florentine) 1997. * Final transfer fee still to be decided - £18m was cost of buying out Romado's contract with Barcelons.

night. One was the baby's bib being sold outside Stanley Park which bore the words: "I can dribble better than McManaman". The other was two supporters criticising the matchstick-man figure in red. "He hasn't done it for 18 months," one Redknapp.

Exuberant talent that

so frustrates Anfield

said as Steve McManaman shuffled into another Leicester-lined cul de sac. "He's not interested. The sooner we sell him the better." Ten yards away in the directors' box, just out of earshot range, was Barcelona's general man-

ager, Bobby Robson. The news that Robson and Barcelona are hoping to prise away McManaman with £12m is not a shock as the Spanish club are known admirers; that Liverpool are prepared to listen is.

Roy Evans, who has fashioned his side round McManaman, once described him as "priceless", but it seems the Anfield board are ready to disagree. Not for the first time, opinions are mixed when it

One of the reasons why Evans adopted a back-five formation as soon as he took over as manager in January 1994 was to liberate the bewildering young talent he had at his disposal in McManaman. He was too lightweight for central midfield in a conventional 4-4-2 line-up and too easily isolated on the wing. But buttress the rearguard with an extra man and

he could have the freedom to take flight. Since, he has become the embodiment of the pluses and minuses of Evans' team. Blessed with pace, skill to tease and the stamina of a racehorse, he has been the focal point of Liverpool's attacks. A typical goal would involve him twisting and turning a defence horribly with his quicksilver feet before priming the extra-ordinary scoring talent, Robbie Fowler, his room and soul mate.

And yet that final ball - like that of Ryan Giges, with whom he is inevitably compared - is also his Achilles' heel. Too often the end result falls short of the build-up, his passes and crosses inaccurate, his mind too giddy with excitement to remain cool in the

As for scoring, Scouse legend would have it that McManaman reserves that for off the field. Evans estimates that he should get between 15 and 20 goals a season given the number of chances he gets, but his best tally to date was the 11 he got in his first full season, 1991-2.

People say that finishing is my weakness," he said last season, "and if there's a part of my game that I need to improve then, yes, that would be it. I practise every day on my shooting and I probably get more goals than Robbie Fowler on the training ground. But once we get into a real match Robbie has that killer

Add this shortcoming to a placid nature that sometimes gives the mistaken impression McManaman cares less than others when Liverpool lose, and it is easy to see why some supporters blame him

Photograph: Allsport

Two images lingered after Liverpool had as much as anyone for the club's inabilist at home to Leicester on Wednesday ity to win the championship last season. ity to win the championship last season. Merseyside christened the team "The Spice Boys" last season, a testament to the perceived lack of substance behind the show, and the tag attached itself to him as readily as it did David James and Jamie

"Of course I care," he said. "I want to win with Liverpool and England as much as the fans do. I want to achieve exactly what they want and they just have to

believe me on that.
"I'm pretty laid-back on the pitch. If I get kicked I just get up and get on with it. If I can still laugh and joke after being beaten it doesn't mean I'm not disappointed by what's happened. But I can't change my nature.'

Just as he could not resist kicking everything that moved as youngster, "We've another boy," his father, David, recalled. "and if he sees a tin can on his way to school he steps over it. Steven was the

McManaman's tin-can-alley dreams centred on emulating his hero, Duncan McKenzie, by playing for Everton but like Fowler, Ian Rush and Michael Owen, who also leaned towards Goodison Park rather than Anfield, he was spotted first by Liverpool's scouts and signed schoolboy forms with "the enemy" at 15.

His first job was to clean the footware of the man whose boots he would ultimately fill, John Barnes, and it is a paradox that master and pupil might leave Anfield within days of each other. The sense that a new Liverpool are entering

a new era is overwhelming. Evans, whose side are already five points behind the team by which their supporters gauge the club, Manchester Unit-ed, will have £12m to spend if the deal with Barcelona goes through although whether he would use the money to find a direct replacement for McManaman is questionable.

There are few dribbling talents outside Anfield to compare with McManaman other than Giggs, and Old Trafford could not contemplate selling him to their greatest rivals, while other areas of the team - notably, goalkeeper and centre-back - need strengthening more urgently.

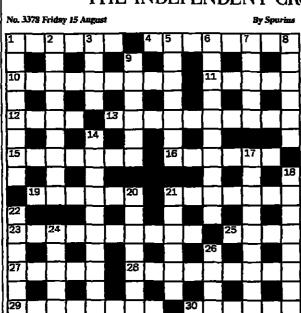
In any case Jason McAteer fulfilled the

same role for Bolton Wanderers and had to be adapted as a wing-back because his style too obviously aped McManaman. With Rob Jones now back on the right flank, McAteer or Patrik Berger are as suited as anyone in the Premiership to run at defences from midfield. Nevertheless, even McAteer will not be

able to replicate the exuberant, heady dribbling of McManaman at his best and it is an uncomfortable thought that his talent will be lost to the English game.

Only last Saturday McManaman wrote about this season being "the biggest challenge" of his career. He meant the prospect of England playing in the World Cup fi-nals at the end of it but in the light of a prospective move to Barcelona the comment suddenly seems particularly prescient. Now we will see how good he really is.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Endlessly talk over athlet-

ics event (6)

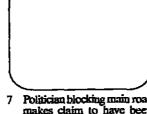
are raised? (6-3)
11 Multi-faceted character in Wilde play? (5)

12 New Age element (4) 13 Novel form of inducement? 29 15 Chemical substances, sev-

inally (7) 16 Toadstools primarily fea-

tured in essay about fungi 19 Parchment, very expensive,

learned lawyers used mainly, starting letters? (6) 21 Be autocratic with one's 5 stenographer? (7)



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cle by journalist seen as ro-bust? (4-6) Weapon used by man, one 25 Feature of racket evoking 8 of the war party? (8) endless complaint? (4) 9

of the war party? (8) endless complaint? (4)
10 Exclamation untered as arms 27 Splendid headdress in representation of Spanish aunt 14 by artist (5) 28 Fresh air m a gym? It's unreal 17

> Virgin with heavenly body to agree terms of contract? (4, 18

duplicate (6) DOWN What's thought of as elegant 22 Tries converting asset after a on a bride, perhaps? (8) Quietly spoken Italian (5, 4) Sisters can be so unfair (4)

Journey in which we hear ca-

lypsos sung? (7) Entry form (10)

23 Lobbied furiously after arti- 7 Politician blocking main road makes claim to have been elsewhere (5) It's an oriental habit (6)

Fit parent's right to see chil-Denim-clad English students furning aside for sweets (10) China typically discontinues rights enjoyed by many workers (3-6)

One of the "beginners" (they "open", theatrically) (8) eral found in Irish Sea orig- 30 Tenant without key, needing 20 Poetic description of crowd totalling under a thousand (7)21 Black plumage associated with a river bird? (6)

> short time (6) Less common type of wool turning up in a shopping precinct (5) Included in President's XI?

England role for Wilkinson

Howard Wilkinson, the Football Association's technical director, has taken over as the coach of the England Under-18 side. It will represent the first hands-on coaching role for the former Leeds manager, who has taken over the Under-18 duties

from David Burnside and Ted Powell, since moving into his new FA position in January. He will have a prompt opportuni-ty to work with the Under-18 squad, who will attend a training camp at Lilleshall from 16 to 20 August prior to their opening European Champi-onship qualifier against Yu-son's First Division play-off ficoslavia at Rotherham on 9

September.
The Croatian international defender Nikola Jerkan has joined Rapid Vienna on loan for in the Coca-Cola Cup.

a year from Nottingham Forest. Jerkan, capped 32 times, for-merly played for NK Zagreb, Vinkovci and Hajduk Split before moving to Oviedo in Spain. He joined Forest for £1 to after the 1996 European Champion-ship, but made only 14 appear-

Nigel Spackman, Sheffield United's caretaker manager, is likely to be given the job on a full-time basis today. Spackman has been in charge since Howard Kendall left to return to Everton this summer, after nal. In his two games in charge he has secured an impressive home League win against Sun-derland and a draw at Wrexham

ances last season.

Inswich have signed the for mer Tottenham and Queen's Park Rangers defender David Kerslake on a free transfer. The 31-year-old Kerslake was released by Spurs in the summer, and he had been on a week-toweek deal at Charlton.

Terry Venables has signed his

fifth Australian player in four weeks for Portsmouth. The former England manager, who is the coach of the Australian national team as well as the chairman at Fratton Park, has signed the international midfielder Craig Foster on a four-year contract.

Foster, who has moved to Fratton Park for £200,000 from Sydney Marconi, joins his fellow Australians John Aloisi

Hamilton Thorp, Robbie Ener and Zeliko Kalac at Pompey.

Northampton keep Townsend

Rugby Union

TIM GLOVER

Gregor Townsend, wined and dined by Bath and Cardiff, yesterday decided to keep his feet under the table at Northampton.

Townsend has signed a new contract with the Saints which promises him the stand-off role ahead of Paul Grayson. There is also a unique rider: if things don't work out Townsend will be allowed to leave the club after Christmas. It could be described as the Santa clause.

"I'm very disappointed."

Albans Road, Watford

executive, said. "Gregor is a playmaker who would have given us a lot of options. He's the type of player we don't have at the moment. The manner in which this was resolved should serve as a hard lesson for players and clubs alike."

Cardiff, who approached Townsend before he enhanced his reputation on the Lions tour to South Africa, had been confident of getting his signature before today's Hemeken European Cup deadline.

Townsend, who is 24, last weekend visited Cardiff and then informed Northampton Gareth Davics, the Cardiff chief he would be moving to Wales.

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

The Welsh Cup holders of fered him a one-year contract, but more importantly a secure place at stand-off. Both Cardiff and Townsend

thought he was free to leave Northampton. However, the Midlands club said that Townsend had already received a sum of money for the new season in the form of a retainer. Martin Offiah, who is leaving Bedford, has been anproached by a London First Division club. The 30-year-old, who has played league for the London Broncos, has promised the unnamed union club a

decision by today. OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Whatf, Loadon E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.



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